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## PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is joined by the CNMI Office of Personnel Management director of Personnel Frances T. Torres-Salas, members of the Public Service Recognition Week Committee, dignitaries, and representatives of CNMI government departments and agencies for a souvenir picture after Torres signed yesterday the designation of the week of May 2-6, 2022 as Public Service Recognition Week.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## NMI gov't to celebrate May 2-6 as Public Service Recognition Week

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has designated the week of May 2-6, 2022, as Public Service Recognition Week to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of all the hard-working and deserving public employees of the CNMI government.

In a proclamation signing yesterday at the Office of the Governor that saw the attendance of many government employees, Torres said the people of the Commonwealth are served every single day by public servants at every level in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

"These unsung heroes do the work that keeps our Commonwealth working and public employees take not only jobs, but oaths to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities," states part of the proclamation.

It honors public servants, to include military reserve personnel, police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, customs and conservation officers, doctors, nurses, health care professionals—"and others who risk their lives each day in service to the people of the Commonwealth"—as well as teachers, social workers, administrators, computer technicians, laborers, "and countless other occupations, day in and day out, provide with efficiency and integrity, the diverse services demanded of their government by the people of the Commonwealth."

"Without these public servants at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials," the proclamation states. *(Saipan Tribune)*

## UOG Press seeks to expand talent pool

The University of Guam Press is issuing a call for talent to expand its pool of local writers, copy editors, translators, graphic designers, illustrators, and photographers available to support the publishing house's book projects.

UOG Press is the University of Guam's in-house publisher and has published, distributed, and marketed more than two dozen academic and literary books and journals with a specific focus on the unique history, environment, peoples, cultures, and languages of Guam and the broader Micronesia.

This year, UOG Press will be releasing several books and projects and will need a collaborative and creative roster of community artists available to help produce these books.

Every six months, UOG Press seeks to refresh its local talent pool to provide opportunities for new and upcoming writers and artists.

"At UOG Press, we strive to publish books that feature and celebrate the work of the talented artists, writers, and other creative professionals from our community," said Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero, interim director of publishing for UOG Press. "Hiring local allows us to better serve and represent our region and our community through our growing inventory of publications and projects."

To successfully and professionally achieve its publication goals, UOG Press is particularly looking for people

See UOG on Page 4

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2 A Pure Checking account with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. When you enroll in eStatements, you will no longer receive paper statements. If you choose to receive both paper and eStatements, a fee of \$5 will be imposed each month. You must be enrolled in FHB Online to get eStatements.

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# 4 laptops, 6 ukuleles missing in Hopwood music class burglary



The building behind the stage where the music class was burglarized in the Hopwood Middle School campus.

By **LEIGH GASES**  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Hopwood Middle School principal Victorino N. Borja is appealing to the public for any information that could help resolve a recent burglary at the school, or at least recover some of the stolen items.

Borja said one of the missing items was a personal ukulele owned by Hopwood music teacher Felix Rabauliman, who is "very upset" and hopes to get it back.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to issue a news release about the burglary as of press time yesterday but, in an interview with Borja, it was learned that the burglary occurred sometime on April 6, Wednesday, at the school's music room.

He said a Hopwood security guard was doing his rounds in the early morning of

Wednesday, April 6, at about 5am, when he discovered that Room 27, the music class behind the stage of the HMS campus in Chalan Piao, had been burglarized.

After an inventory that morning, it was learned that the missing items included four student laptops, six ukuleles, and one acoustic guitar.

Upon inspection of the CCTV footage, it was determined that the burglary happened around midnight, when the security guard was posted elsewhere on campus, and three unidentified male individuals were seen in the recording. It was not immediately learned how the perpetrators gained entry to the classroom.

Borja pointed out that "any theft to schools is theft to students." He hopes that anyone

in the public with information about the stolen goods or the perpetrators will step forward.

This incident was not the first of its kind for HMS. The school's temporary site in Kolerville was also burglarized in February 2020, but the only missing item was a black cell phone that had been confiscated weeks earlier.

If you or someone you know would like to report a crime, call 911. If you would like to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

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## Small craft advisory in effect until Friday

A small craft advisory is in effect until 6pm Friday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, south-east winds of 15 to 20 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots and seas of up to 8 to 11 feet are present in the coastal waters of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 6pm Friday. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

Winds will diminish below criteria Wednesday night while seas will remain above criteria through Friday. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these hazardous conditions. (PR)



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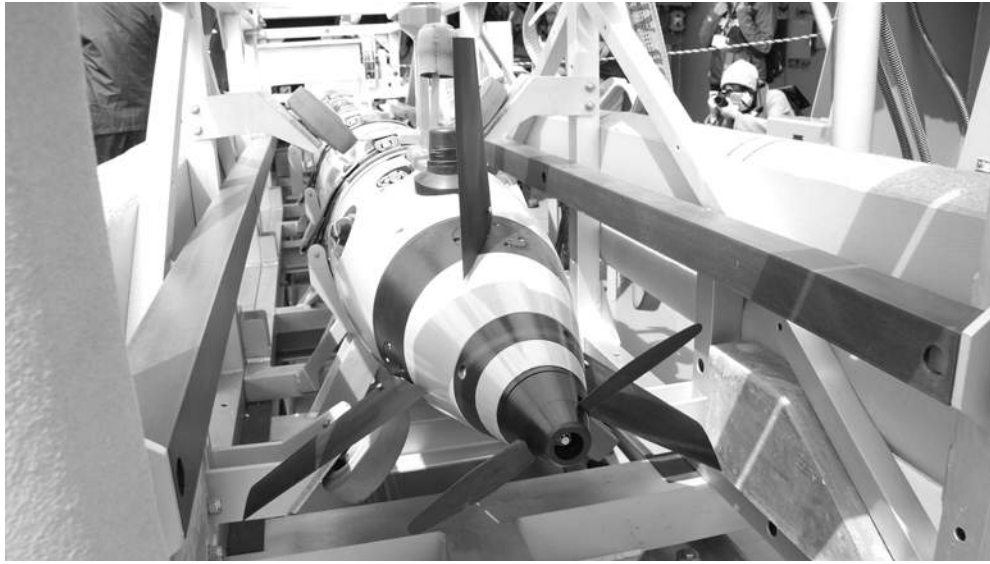
# Robotic vehicles explore World War II era ocean battlefields

By JAMES DACEY  
EOS.ORG

More than 72,000 Americans who fought during World War II remain unaccounted for, and more than half of them are presumed lost at sea. U.S. government entities have investigated WWII sites over the past 70 years to find evidence of those missing in action but have faced challenges, particularly when trying to explore strategic locations on the seafloor. Recent advances in autonomous underwater vehicles and underwater imaging technologies are making it possible to search deeper and more challenging parts of the ocean to potentially find some answers in wreckages, a task that has historically fallen upon divers.

In March, a U.S. research team, including oceanographers and forensic archaeologists, completed a 2-week mission to search for planes that had crashed in the northwestern Pacific Ocean in 1945. The team found two crash sites.

"There are lots of unanswered questions across generations. So being able to find and identify crash sites pays homage to those that were before us," said Eric Terrill,



A Wikipedia image of a REMUS 600 autonomous underwater vehicle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

a researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and cofounder of Project Recover.

Launched in 2012, Project Recover is a collaboration between Scripps (a division of the University of California, San Diego) and the University of Delaware. It expanded on an earlier project created by scientist Pat Scannon, and the combined efforts have so far located more than 50 aircraft associated with 185 American MIAs.

## Search for Superfortresses

Tinian, part of the Northern

Mariana Islands, was seized by Allied forces in 1944 and used as an airbase for long-range bombing of Japan, located 2,000 kilometers (about 1,243 miles) north. These campaigns were the first combat use of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress, which was retired in 1960.

The United States used the tiny island of Tinian to deploy B-29 Superfortresses during World War II. Credit: United States Air Force Historical Research Agency, CC BY 2.0

B-29s were rushed into the action in the Pacific, and many

crashed on takeoff because of overheating turbochargers. By searching through Missing Air Crew Reports and other personnel files, the Project Recover team identified 13 crashed planes within a 93-square-kilometer patch of ocean, linked with 76 American MIAs.

With this in mind, Terrill's 11-person team set sail from Guam in late February aboard the R/V *Kilo Moana* to search for WWII wreckage sites between Tinian and Saipan, the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands.

During the expedition, the team explored 500–600 meters below the ocean's surface with side scan sonar systems operated from two REMUS 600 AUVs. Once objects of interest were located, the team sent down a smaller remotely operated vehicle equipped with a high-resolution camera.

According to crew member Andrew Pietruszka, an underwater archaeologist at UCSD, the team located two planes, though neither appears to be a B-29. One aircraft is a recognized type of U.S. military plane from the WWII era, whereas identification of the other is less clear—it could be American or Japanese, according to the research team.

Researchers used a REMUS 600 vehicle, placed in the wa-

ter after deployment from the R/V *Kilo Moana*, to explore World War II wreckage sites at depths as great as 600 meters. Credit: UC San Diego

## A long journey to find closure

"Typically, we would be ecstatic if we went to do a survey and found two new aircraft. But I think there was a

little bit of a let down because we didn't find any of the B-29s," said Pietruszka. High seas had posed challenges, and the team would like to return for a follow-up mission once funding is secured. All findings will

be shared with the historical preservation office of the Northern Marianas. "This is their history as well as our history, they're intertwined," he said.

## » Project Recover used autonomous underwater vehicles to identify, access, and image hard-to-reach World War II wreckage sites near the Northern Mariana Islands.

## ARPA

From Page 1

of ARPA funds to pay \$500 vouchers for tourists. If the administration was serious about using ARPA funds to backfill the shortages, that was their language, then we could probably afford to use the funds that were then being used to pay tourists, to support MVA's budget and then at the same time, use those local funds that

we had identified to pay the retiree bonus," Sablan added.

Alepuyo stated that the conversation regarding the use of ARPA funds to backfill MVA's budget came after watching a press conference where House of Representatives vice speaker Jonathan "BJ" Attao relayed the information he supposedly got from Department of finance.

"Vice speaker BJ Attao said their information came from

the secretary of Finance and that secretary of Finance had informed them that it was no problem for the House to take away the \$860,000 from MVA because Department of Finance could just backfill MVA's budget using ARPA. I reached out to Secretary Atalig and he shared that he did not know where the House was getting that information from. He claims he never told anyone from the House that he agreed that they could take

away MVA's budget, but more importantly, he was concerned about this discussion of backfilling because you cannot [do that]," she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo said if \$850,000 is taken from MVA, it would completely deplete its operations budget, which would cause the agency to shut down for the rest of the fiscal year.

## CHILDREN

From Page 1

Amid the stress of war, his mother barely ate. The family still doesn't know what illness caused her death. They, much like their town, barely know how to move on.

Bucha witnessed some of the ghastliest scenes of Russia's invasion, and almost no children have been seen in its silent streets since then. The many bright playgrounds in the once popular community with good schools on a far edge of the capital, Kyiv, are empty.

The Russians used a children's camp in Bucha as an execution ground, and bloodstains and bullet holes mark a basement. On a ledge near the camp entrance, Russian soldiers placed a toy tank. It appeared to be connected to fishing wire—a possible booby trap in the most vulnerable of places.

Steps away from Vlad's home, some of the Russians

used a kindergarten as a base, leaving it intact while other nearby buildings suffered. Casings of used artillery shells were left along a fence in the yard. In a nearby playground, white and red tape marked off unexploded ordnance. The booms of de-mining operations were so strong they set off car alarms.

At the apartment block where Vlad, his older brother Vova and sister Sophia live, someone had spray-painted "CHILDREN" in child-high letters on an outside wall. Under it, a wooden box once used for ammunition held a teddy bear and other toys.

It is here that Bucha's fragile renewal can be seen.

A small group of neighborhood children gathered, finding distraction from the war. Bundled up in winter coats, they kicked a football, wandered around with bags of snacks handed out by visiting volunteers, called out from a glass-less window above.

Their parents, taking in the

feeble warmth of spring after weeks in freezing basements, reflected on how they tried to protect the children. "We covered his ears," said Polina Shymanska of her 7-year-old great-grandson Nikita. "We hugged him, kissed him." She tried to play chess and the boy let her win.

Upstairs, in a neighbor's apartment where Vlad's father for now has merged his family with that of the neighbor to help manage their collection of children, Vlad curled up on a bed with another boy and played cards. The radiator gave off no heat. There was still no gas, no electricity, no running water.

Not everyone in Vlad's family can stand to return to their own apartment nearby. The memories of Maryna are everywhere, from the perfume bottles on the table by the front door to the quiet kitchen.

In the living room, time has stopped. Limp balloons dangled from the overhead light. A string of colorful flags still hung on the wall, along with

a family photo. It showed Ivan and Maryna holding Vlad on the day he was born. They celebrated his birthday on Feb. 19.

Five days later, the war began. And the family's life shrank to a dank concrete half-room in the basement, lined with blankets and scattered with sweets and toys. It was very, very cold, Ivan remembers. He and Maryna did what they could to muffle the sounds of shelling for Vlad and keep him calm. But they were afraid, too.

Two weeks ago, Ivan took Vlad to the makeshift toilet in the shelter and visited neighbors. Then he came to Maryna to tell her that he was going outside. "I touched her shoulder, and she was cold," he said. "I realized she was gone."

At first, he said, Vlad appeared not to understand what had happened. The boy said his mother had moved away. But at the burial, the boy watched Ivan kneel and cry, and now he knows what death is.

## GAS

From Page 1

yesterday, bringing regular fuel down to \$5.76.

A local motorist who works at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was cautiously optimistic yesterday, saying it looks like the CNMI's fuel dilemma is starting to look up.

"I feel like this good news is only going to continue. After months of continuous increases, I think the CNMI will continue to see fuel prices drop to the normal rate, pre-pandemic," she said.

Another motorist, a 21-year-old student, hopes the trend only continues. "I feel it's only right for gas prices to go down since our gas prices reached an all-time-high while still in the recovery phase of COVID-19. I'm hopeful this only contin-

ues because I know this is a big help for others like me who are strapped for cash," he said.

Meanwhile a 24-year-old motorist said she was so excited that she waited to fill up her tank yesterday rather than the day before.

"I was actually supposed to fill up my gas tank on Monday. However, when I got home from work, I decided not to because I was already tired. Then, I was supposed to gas up this morning but I was already late for work. On my way home, I saw that gas prices went down and I was just so happy to full tank my car. It really pays to be patient," she said.

According to international media outlets, fuel prices in the U.S. mainland continue to fluctuate, however, fuel still remains at an all-time high.

## UOG

From Page 2

who are able to meet tight deadlines, receive constructive feedback, and produce quality work.

To respond to this call, applicants are asked to submit a digital portfolio featuring a minimum of five relevant work samples and a one-page letter of interest that includes the applicant's first name; service(s) the applicant is eligible to provide; email address; phone number(s); and relevant experience/background, including professional jobs.

For writing, editing, and translating services in languages other than English,

the applicant must specify the language these services can be provided in.

Applicants will be added to the Press' pool of creatives and will be contacted as projects arise. It is important to note that writers and artists are called based on the needs of the project or publication. Individuals who have responded to previous talent calls are encouraged to respond again.

All submissions must be emailed by no later than Friday, May 6, to [uogpress@triton.uog.edu](mailto:uogpress@triton.uog.edu).

For more information, contact UOG Press Marketing and Communications coordinator Via Justine De Fant at (671) 735-2153 or [defantv@triton.uog.edu](mailto:defantv@triton.uog.edu). (UOG)



# Sablan: There's never a 'wrong time' to do the right thing

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) believes there's no right or wrong timing when it comes down to doing what's right.

Responding to the CNMI Republican Party's concerns that the lawsuit filed by the Attorney General Edward Manibusan, who is a former Democratic Party chair, against Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres was "politically motivated," Sablan said she believes there is no wrong or right timing to do what is believed to be the right thing.

CNMI Republican Party president Candace Celis and party chair James Ada earlier released a statement question-

ing the motives and timing of the OAG's criminal complaint against Torres. In this statement, the party highlighted Manibusan's previous role in the Democratic Party.

"The Republican Party, stands firm with Gov. Torres, first lady Diann Torres, and their family, as they endure what is apparently another politically motivated attack. We can't help but question the timing and motive of the charges filed against the Governor," the party statement said. "The Republican Party is dismayed that former CNMI Democrat Party chairman, Attorney General Ed Manibusan, would file the charges over three-years later but six months before a general

election, and days before the commencement of an already ongoing process on the same. However, rather than delving into our reasons at this time, we choose to focus on the bigger picture and the road ahead."

Sablan rejects this assertion. "I don't think there's ever the wrong time to do the right thing. To bring up charges of this nature, it takes time. Reviewing records, interviewing witnesses. The attorney general, in his brief statement, made it very clear that this has been part of a monthslong process of investigation and doing his own due diligence. The facts are the facts. It is really now up to Gov. Torres to defend his own case and address the

questions and the concerns that have been raised by the Legislature, by the public, about these misuses of public resources and these violations of law. That that has nothing to do with politics. That has everything to do with governance and respect for the rule of law," she said.

Sablan thanks Manibusan for taking the necessary steps to protect the rule of law in the CNMI.

"The attorney general has looked at a lot of the same records done. It did its own investigation independent of the impeachment process. And now there is this criminal prosecution that is underway. So I thank the attorney general for standing

up for the people, standing up against misuse of government resources and abuses of power. The rule of law is so important for people to have any trust in their government and the attorney general took steps today to preserve and protect the rule of law," she said.

Meanwhile, in a brief statement from Torres, he said he has been advised by his counsel, Viola Alepuyo and Ton Aguon, not to make any com-

ments on this matter.

Last Friday, the OAG filed a criminal case against Torres alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or Diann T. Torres. The case also alleges one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena.

## SBDC, DLNR, DOC meet with farmers about grant program

To promote sustainability in the Marianas, the CNMI Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College, in partnership with the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Agriculture and the CNMI Department of Commerce, recently helped farmers who are seeking technical assistance in applying for the Micro-Grants for Food Security Program made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Eligible applicants will be awarded up to \$5,000.

MGFSP assists agricultural agencies or departments in eligible states and territories to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in food insecure communities through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations by competitively distributing subawards to eligible entities.

The CNMI SBDC network extended technical assistance for farmers who do not have access to computers or need guidance on the grant application process. Also present at the meetings were Department of Commerce Economic Development director Jesus Taisague and Economic Development coordinator Jo Anna Ada. Both Taisague and Ada offered assistance and shared program information.

Jack Ogomoro, director of the Department of Lands of Natural Resources' Division of Agriculture, thanked NMC and CNMI SBDC for their assistance.

"I am grateful that they were able to extend their support to our local farmers," Ogomoro said. "I look forward to their partnerships so we can meet our goal of helping, promoting, and encouraging our local people to farm or continue farming."

Small business owners are invited to sign up for free one-on-one confidential counseling by visiting marianas.edu/cnmisbdc or marianas.eccenter-



Attendees of the information session hosted by the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources listen to Department of Commerce coordinator for Economic Development Jo Anna Ada discuss a grant program available to farmers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

direct.com. For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC Network lead center at (670) 237-6888 or email mercilynn.

palec@marianas.edu.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is hosted by NMC. CNMI SB-

DCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. (PR)

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**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER**  
**14 CFR PART 139**

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**CPA-RFP-003-22**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals from individuals, professional firms, companies and/or corporations to provide instructional training services specific to airports pertaining to the requirements imposed by 14 CFR Part 139, and related federal airport and safety policies applicable to airfield operations contained in the Airport Certification Manual (ACM). The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

The successful proposer shall conduct instructional training services at the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) facility, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposals must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands no later than 4:30 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. One original and three copies of each proposal shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked as "Confidential" and each envelope must include the RFP number on the outside. It is the sole responsibility of a proposer to submit its proposal or proposals in a timely manner.

The Proposal Package is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning March 25, 2022. There is no charge for the proposal package.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@cpa.com.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ Christopher S. Tenorio  
Executive Director
March 2022

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# 5 from NMI, together with 18 others, are newest ELDP graduates



**Antonio  
L. Borja**



**Ayako  
Yamaguchi-  
Eliou**



**Bobby  
James A.  
Cruz**



**Bradford  
Geoffrey  
Mori**



**Christopher  
A. Concepcion**



**Faith M.  
Tasi  
Availepule**



**Janice  
Anne E.  
Castro**



**Jasper  
Ali'itaeao  
Tuiasosopo**



**Jesse John  
Quenga**



**Jovalyn  
Ilong  
Koshiba**



**Kimberly  
Tmilchol  
Idip**



**Malie  
Tarbwillin**



**Marcella  
Fitisone**



**Martin  
Moore**



**Mikaela  
Saelua**



**Myra  
Adelbai-  
Fraser**



**Nicole  
Babauta**



**Padwick  
Gallen**



**Rachel  
Bigler**



**Ramona  
M.Q.  
Duenas**



**Serleen  
Hadley  
Walliby**



**Tamera  
Heine**



**T'Nelta  
S. Mori**

Five future CNMI leaders were part of this year's batch of the Executive Leadership Development Program of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, which had their commencement ceremony last March 10, 2022.

Nicole Babauta of the Small Business Development Center, Antonio Borja from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Janice Castro from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration CNMI, Christopher Concepcion from the Office of Planning & Development, and Bobby Cruz from the Public School System were joined by 18 others who successfully completed the ELDP, representing American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

OIA director Nikolao Pula delivered welcome remarks to over 100 alumni, family, and friends who joined the 23 graduates to celebrate their graduation. In his remarks, Pula acknowledged the challenge of participating in an ELDP virtual program, given travel restrictions due to the pandemic, and encouraged the graduates to utilize their new skills in service to their islands.

The 2021-2022 Executive Leadership cohort, listed by Insular Area, follows:

- Faith Availepule, Environmental Protection Agency, AS
- Marcella Fitisone, Department of Education, AS
- Mikaela Saelua, Department of Education, AS
- Jasper Tuiasosopo, Department of Education, AS

- Bradford Mori, Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency, FSM

- Nicole Babauta, Small Business Development Center, CNMI

- Antonio Borja, Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI

- Janice Castro, NOAA, CNMI

- Christopher Concepcion, Office of Planning & Development, CNMI

- Bobby Cruz, Public School System, CNMI

- Padwick Gallen, M.D., Pohnpei State Hospital, FSM

- Serleen Hadley Walliby, Pohnpei State Legislature, FSM

- Ramona Duenas, Department of Education, Guam

- T'Nelta Mori, Office of Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam

- Jesse Quenga, Ethics Commission, Guam

- Myra Adelbai-Fraser, Ministry of Health, Palau

- Kimberly Idip, Ministry of Health, Palau

- Jovalyn Ilong Koshiba, Housing Authority, Palau

- Martin Moore, Office of Insular Affairs, DOI

- Rachel Bigler, Health and Human Services, RMI

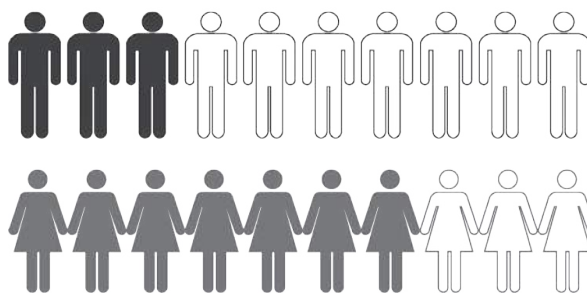
- Tamera Heine, Office of the Consul General in Hawaii, RMI

- Malie Tarbwillin, Ministry of Finance, RMI

- Ayako Yamaguchi-Eliou, Ministry of Finance, RMI

OIA contracted the Graduate School to develop and implement the ELDP to assist the Insular Area governments with developing and retaining the qualified and skilled staff needed to lead insular governments into the future. Since 2008, OIA has supported the participation of 178 young leaders who have

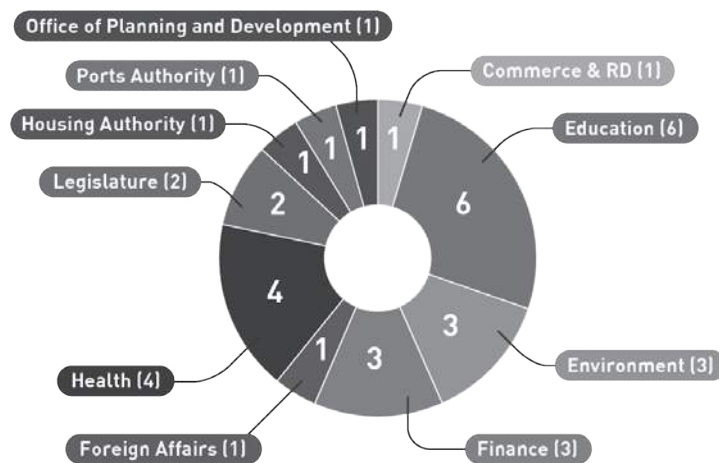
## 30% Male 70% Female



completed the program.

A similar program for students from the U.S. Virgin Islands, called the USVI Executive Leadership Program, takes

place in Washington, D.C. and other locations along the East Coast where students join U.S. federal employees for training. There is a USVI 2022-2023



cohort that is expected to complete their studies next summer. For more information on the Executive Leadership Program and the Graduate School's

Pacific Islands & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives, visit their website at <https://pitiviti.org/about-the-eldp>. (Saipan Tribune/PR)

## GCEA presents 2021 report at SCC membership meeting

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chairmen, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Jerry Tan, along with Domestic Policy Committee chair Mike Sablan, presented their 2021 Annual Report to the Saipan Cham-

ber of Commerce's membership during the Chamber's general meeting on April 6, 2022.

The presentation highlighted the GCEA's goals in 2022, notably the re-engagement of the Japan market,

destination transformation, supporting the establishment of e-government platforms, expanding the Marianas Village Pride campaign, and the creation of the GCEA's 10-Year Plan.

To read more about the

GCEA's outlook and opportunities in 2022, visit [cnmieconomy.com](https://cnmieconomy.com). A digital copy of the 2021 Annual Report and the PPP Annual Report and Annual Report videos are available to view or download at [cnmieconomy.com](https://cnmieconomy.com).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chair Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speaks during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general meeting on April 6, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chair Jerry Tan presents the council's 2021 Annual Report to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's membership during the Chamber's general meeting on April 6, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Domestic Policy Committee chair Mike Sablan speaks during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general meeting on April 6, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.



# CGC, MCS collaborate on strengthening mental health

A total of 44 members of the Mount Carmel School faculty and staff took part in a mental health awareness outreach event last March 25, 2022, at the Pacific Islands Club, during which they learned about stress and some coping skills.

The outreach event was in collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center. The CGC facilitated a stress management presentation, sharing information on the different types of stress, recog-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As part of the mental health awareness event, participants listed two stressful situations they currently face as educators (COVID-19, etc.). Once all cards were gathered and shuffled, volunteers were asked to pick from the pile of cards and share how they would handle the situation they picked.

nizing signs and symptoms of stress, and local and national resources on where to seek help. Additionally, participants were able to create a toolkit of practical coping skills they can

do at home or at work.

"The activities...were helpful and therapeutic, which gave us a chance to reflect on our well-being," said MCS teacher Alyssa Palattao. "It

helped us identify ways where we can cope with our stress, things we can and cannot control, and ways we can seek help in the event we feel we cannot handle a situation."

The CGC also provided participants an opportunity to participate in a "coffee and paint" activity, which focused on promoting healthy coping skills among adults and their families.

"The health and wellness of our employees are an essential part of the health and wellness of our school," said MCS principal Frances Taimañao. "We want to make sure that our faculty and staff are equipped with the needed tools or information to tackle or handle stress and to use it in the classroom to assist their students. The wellness of our faculty and staff is very important to us."

The event was funded through support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Disaster Response Grant and the CNMI Public School System Federal Programs Office.

For more information on training and outreach events, contact the CGC at (670) 323-6560/1. (PR)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Sugar Dock area closed to public for 45 days

The Infrastructure and Recovery Program has contracted Primtek Inc. to build a new public pavilion in the Sugar Dock area. This is to serve as a public notice that the area will be closed off to the public for a period of 45 calendar days starting Tuesday, April 12, 2022. For everyone's safety, we ask that the public keep out of the construction site.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact IRP at (670) 664-4775/6/7 or via email at [irp@irp.gov.mp](mailto:irp@irp.gov.mp). (PR)

### High surf, rip currents in next few days

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Friday night along west facing reefs. A high surf advisory is in effect until 6am Saturday along west facing reefs.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 8 to 10 feet are expected in the surf zone for the high surf advisory. Dangerous and frequent rip currents are present in west facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 6am Saturday. These will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. These west swells are being caused by fresh to strong monsoon flow and a distant Typhoon Malakas.

The public is reminded to stay out of the water along west facing reefs. Elsewhere, swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

### COVID-19 vaccine second booster dose available across FSM

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—The second booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is now available across the Federated States of Micronesia. The second booster dose is available in the States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

The primary goal of the COVID-19 booster dose is in the prevention of severe disease and death, particularly for persons who are elderly or who have underlying medical conditions. The second booster dose for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines may be administered at least four months after completion of the first booster dose. The booster dose is recommended for persons aged 45 years of age and older, persons aged 18 years and older who have underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, and persons aged 18 years and older who work or live in high-risk settings or serve as front-line workers. (PR)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

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### EDITORIAL

## A 10-year ban for Will Smith. The Academy finally gets tough

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Friday ruled that Will Smith will be banned from attending the Oscars ceremony—as a guest or presenter—as well as any other academy events for the next 10 years.

That may seem like a harsh punishment for Smith smacking Chris Rock onstage at the ceremony, nearly two weeks ago, over a joke the comic told about Smith's wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith.

But consider the enormity of what happened that night. This isn't like Smith confronted Rock backstage or in a Dolby Theatre parking garage and hit him. That would have been bad enough. He did it on global TV. And then Smith went back to his seat and screamed profanities across the theater at Rock—lest any of us (including Rock) think the whole thing was just a comic bit. If it were any other awards ceremony for achievements in a profession, chances are someone who rushed the stage and hit the presenter would be arrested and/or fired from their job.

Smith effectively derailed the rest of the show. All anyone could talk or think about was what they had just seen. Musician and director Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, whose “Summer of Soul” won for documentary feature; Jane Campion, only the third woman to win an Oscar for directing; and the producers, director and actors of the groundbreaking film “CODA,” which won best picture, all had their moments overshadowed by this insane act.

Since then, Smith apologized, incrementally, to everyone and resigned from the academy. Officials from the academy have apologized for mishandling the event after kinda, sorta asking Smith to leave and then not making him leave that night. In the announcement Friday, Academy officials again apologized, saying they had an opportunity that night to set an example for everyone, “and we fell short—unprepared for the unprecedented.”

So are they overcompensating now? Is 10 years too long to banish Smith? Should it have been five years, or three? Hard to know. There isn't a sentencing commission report on assaults committed at the Academy Awards. (This page called for him to not be allowed to present at or attend the Oscars next year.) This doesn't stop Smith from working or being nominated for an Oscar, or even winning one—although he couldn't accept it in person or on a virtual screen.

The decision was made by the 54-member Board of Governors, a diverse group of Hollywood entertainers and professionals.

The point is that the academy did what it needed to do: Send a clear message to the public and to movie stars—who are among the most indulged people on the planet, accustomed to doing whatever they want, whenever they want—that this kind of behavior will not be tolerated.

In response, Smith released a statement saying, “I accept and respect the academy's decision.” That's the smartest thing he's said in two weeks.

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## The weapons that cannot be ignored

Here's a prediction that, unfortunately, may be as inescapable as it is undesirable: The current war between Ukraine and Russia will expand into a larger shooting war that involves the United States, as well as its NATO allies.

From the beginning, President Joe Biden has been emphatic: America will not engage directly in a conflict with Russia, which Biden has said would amount to World War III.

But even as Russian President Vladimir Putin surrounded Ukraine with nearly 200,000 troops in February, few imagined that his invasion would devolve into the brutality and atrocity that we're seeing reported from Ukraine every day.

Nevertheless, that's where we are, and there are no signs of an end to the bloodshed. Last Friday, a Russian missile attack was launched against an eastern Ukrainian train station packed with fleeing civilians. At least 57 were killed and many more injured.

Even the current best-case scenario is dreadful: If the war eventually grinds to an exhausted halt, with Putin controlling large portions of eastern and southern Ukraine and Crimea, the only way to get to that undesirable point is through the deaths of many, many thousands of Russians and Ukrainians, including many civilians, women, children and old people.

The difference between Putin and Hitler is a matter only of scope and scale, and the West's tolerance for this sort of brutal carnage cannot be unlimited.

Furthermore, eventually the stakes of the war in Ukraine may become more obvious and inescapable. No-where are those stakes better described than in Robert Kagan's 2018 book “The Jungle Grows Back.”

Kagan reminds us of how rare and fragile a thing the “liberal world order” is, the seven-decade reprieve from history as usual that began after World War II. According to Kagan, the liberal world order was largely engineered by the United States, and it resulted in a unique era of human history that values democracy, rule of law, equality, free speech, international cooperation over war and the rights and freedoms of individuals over the prerogatives of the state.

The desirability of these principles is so obvious that one might assume they would naturally thrive as humankind develops, but according to Kagan the liberal world order had to be imposed and maintained by force or, at least, by the threat of force. It's in constant danger of relapsing into the war, tyranny,

By JOHN M. CRISP

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcol-umns@gmail.com.



disorder and poverty that has characterized the vast majority of human history.

This more typical condition of humankind is what Kagan calls the jungle. The jungle is never completely subdued.

The liberal world order is threatened constantly by its resurgence.

In short, first, there's nothing inevitable about the characteristics of the free world that provide the kind of life that we Americans value so highly. They are under constant threat in nations around the world, including in the U.S. The war in Ukraine is the current, violent instance that represents the larger battle.

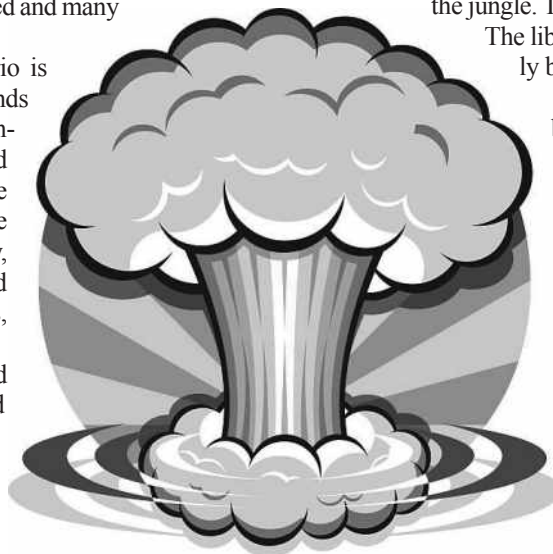
Second, it's naive to believe that the battle between the free world and the autocracies of Russia, China, North Korea and Iran can be won without force. We may hope otherwise, but history has another story to tell.

All of this would be considerably simpler if the primary antagonists in this confrontation were not heavily armed with nuclear weapons. But the invention of the atomic bomb was always inevitable, and so was its use. The abolition of nuclear weapons is as unrealistic as the eradication of war itself.

A nuclear exchange has sometimes been called unthinkable. But in truth any nuclear power—including us—will use nuclear weapons if the circumstances reach a certain point of desperation.

Thus nuclear weapons are a significant element of the calculus that our adversaries use to advance their autocratic agendas. It's unfortunate, but nuclear weapons have to be part of our calculus, as well.

This is terribly risky, but it's in the nature of the sad point that world politics has reached. If we're unwilling to push back with a credible nuclear threat, the battle between a liberal world order and autocracy is already lost.





**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Four-day workweeks can burn you out

**T**he disruptions of the COVID pandemic have prompted workers to reconsider how they can be most productive and forced companies to revisit some long-held beliefs. A few organizations are floating a new possibility: a four-day workweek.

In recent months, a diverse collection of employers including Japanese electronics maker Panasonic, fintech startup Bolt and the government of Belgium have recommended giving employees the option to work four days but get paid for five. Spain and Scotland are conducting their own trials of shorter weeks. They join a clutch of firms mainly in the tech sector that gravitated to a four-day format when the pandemic hit, including crowdfunding site Kickstarter, fashion reseller thredUp and venture capital firm Uncharted.

While most companies have always had a handful of workers on alternative schedules, it is unusual for businesses to reconsider the traditional workweek for all employees. A five-day, 40-hour workweek has been the norm for salaried workers since the early 20th century, when labor leaders pushed back against factory bosses who demanded six- or even seven-day schedules and 12- to 14-hour days.

But does a five-day system still make sense?

Companies with a four-day week option tend to trumpet their worker-friendly policies. Yet dig into the details, and “four-day week” means different things in different places. At some companies, employees might work four 10-hour days (a practice called “four tens”). At others, employees get Fridays off without working longer on the previous four days. And still others might decide to reduce the overall workload by making the days shorter — so a “four-day week” is really still a five-day week, but workers call it quits at 4 p.m. instead of at 5 or 6 p.m.

However the days are configured, researchers say, one finding stands out: Working fewer hours is better for workers and their employers.

The most recent significant study of four-day weeks was conducted in Iceland from 2015 to 2019 and involved more than 1% of the population. Organizations enrolled in the study didn’t squeeze 40 hours into four days; they shortened

the workweek to 35 or 36 hours. And different workplaces chose different approaches — some took every other Friday off, while others shortened the workday by an hour.

Regardless of how the hours were distributed, changing the schedule forced the organizations to rethink how work got done. They discovered ways to spend less time working while maintaining (or even increasing) output, such as holding shorter meetings or setting clearer priorities. Workers said the experiment left them with less confusion about their roles, more autonomy and more support from colleagues and bosses. Managers noticed their employees showing more discipline and focus.

The experiment was hugely popular. “For me it is like a gift from the heavens,” one manager told the researchers. Employee well-being rose, and workers reported having more time for hobbies, friends and exercise. Another key benefit was improved weekends: Shorter weekly hours meant more errands and chores got done during the week, leaving Saturday and Sunday free for leisure and family activities. And men reported more involvement at home, which reduced women’s stress levels. A gift from the heavens, indeed.

Iceland conducted the trial in part because workers were reporting working more than 40 hours a week — 44.4, to be precise. That makes Icelanders similar to the average full-time worker in the U.S., who puts in 8.5 hours a day, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to Gallup, 45% of Americans work nine hours a day or more for a minimum of 45 hours a week.

We shouldn’t be surprised that cutting the length of the workday increased the quality of the work produced in addition to improving employee well-being. We lose energy (and effectiveness) as the day wears on. More than a century’s worth of studies back that up. And that’s something companies should remember before they seek a “four-day week” by cramming a 40-hour schedule into four days.

Long work days are taxing, even if they are followed by long weekends. Many people in health care work “four tens,” and many nurses work “three twelves.” While nurses will tell you that the four-day weekends are great, research shows that

**By SARAH GREEN CARMICHAEL**  
Bloomberg Opinion

*Sarah Green Carmichael is an editor with Bloomberg Opinion. She was previously managing editor of ideas and commentary at Barron’s, and an executive editor at Harvard Business Review, where she hosted the HBR Ideacast.*



the long hours are hard. One study found that shifts of 10 hours or more — although often assumed to be necessary for continuity of patient care — are associated with burnout and intent to leave the profession. Mistakes are more likely at the end of a long shift, calling into question whether the practice truly delivers benefits for patients.

Another study in 2021 focused on Japanese consultants found that when people worked overtime they made more errors; shorter days were associated with better results. And a classic study of construction workers in the 1980s conducted by the Business Roundtable found that 60-hour weeks could be maintained for about two months before causing serious delays. Projects would have been completed more quickly, researchers found, had the same crew worked just 40 hours a week.

Yes, there can be benefits to pushing hard in an emergency, like a war. But even there, we run into the limits of the human mind and body. A Stanford study published in 2015 of British munitions workers in World War I found that worker output at 70 hours wasn’t much different from worker output at 56 hours.

There is also a long-term health cost to long hours. Studies of people who work more than 50 hours a week have found that overworkers have higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, depression and alcohol use. While I haven’t yet seen a study that disentangles long days from long weeks, you generally don’t get the latter without the former.

The four-day week is a worthy management experiment. But to truly make it successful, companies have to shrink the workweek, not shift it.

## The US has a big stake in how the Ukraine war ends; it’s likely to be paying a lot of the cost

**R**ussia’s invasion of Ukraine, now in its seventh week, shows no sign of abating. Vladimir Putin’s army has abandoned its assault on Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, but is launching a new offensive in the country’s east. Ukraine’s allies, led by the United States and Britain, have stepped up their supplies of tanks and anti-aircraft weapons.

But every war must end some day, whether in a victory for one side or a split-the-difference cease-fire. In Washington and other Western capitals, debate has begun over what terms Ukraine and its allies should seek for ending this one — or what goals they should hold out for.

At first glance, the question might appear simple: Ukraine and its allies want Putin to end the invasion and withdraw his troops. But the details get complicated quickly.

Some U.S. and European hawks see the unexpected success of Ukraine’s armed forces as a golden opportunity to cut Putin down to size and teach a lesson to other autocrats, beginning with China’s Xi Jinping.

“The Western objective must be to leave Russia profoundly weakened and militarily crippled ... internally divided until the point that an aging autocrat falls from power,” Eliot A. Cohen of Johns Hopkins University, a former official in the George W. Bush administration, wrote recently.

But doves worry about threatening Putin’s survival in power to the point that he might consider using nuclear weapons. And some European leaders, led by French President Emmanuel Macron, have searched for a quick end to the war, if only to reduce the damage to their own economies.

In the middle, President Joe Biden and his aides have settled on what sounds like an elegant solution: endorse whatever outcome is acceptable to Ukraine.

“Our job is to support the Ukrainians,” Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said recently. “They will set the military

objectives. They will set the objectives at the bargaining table.... We are not going to define the outcome of this for the Ukrainians. That is up for them to define and us to support them.”

The logic is straightforward: The Ukrainians are doing the fighting and suffering horrendous civilian casualties, so they’ve earned the right to decide what kind of settlement they’re willing to accept.

“As long as the Ukrainians are saying they want to keep fighting, we can’t tell them no,” argued Steven Pifer, a former U.S. ambassador to Kyiv.

Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, offered Putin terms for a cease-fire last month and included several concessions: He asked for a Russian withdrawal to the lines each army occupied before the Feb. 24 invasion, which would leave several chunks of Ukrainian territory in Russian hands. He said Ukraine would accept neutral status and give up its effort to become a member of NATO. In return, he said, Ukraine would need ironclad security guarantees to prevent another invasion.

Putin’s aides dismissed the offer as inadequate.

That was before the discovery of widespread atrocities against civilians by Russian troops north of Kyiv, which may have hardened Ukraine’s resolve to keep fighting. Zelenskyy has said he would submit the terms of any cease-fire to a referendum.

In any case, deferring to the Ukrainians on terms for ending the war is more complicated than it sounds because the likely terms will require active participation by the United States and its allies.

Take Zelenskyy’s demand for security guarantees. He wants a reliable, binding pledge that if Russia invades again, the United States and its allies will step in with the kind of sanctions and military aid they are supplying now, or more.

“Whether Russia agrees to a settlement or not, Ukraine is going to need security guarantees,” Ivo H. Daalder, a former U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, told me.

**By DOYLE MCMANUS**  
Los Angeles Times

*Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*



“There’s already an organization that does that, and it’s called NATO.... How is NATO going to say no to membership for Ukraine after all of this has happened?”

Another thorny issue will involve U.S. economic sanctions. In any talks over ending the war, Russia is certain to demand that sanctions be lifted. U.S. officials have said that sanctions relief will be up for discussion, but only after Russian troops are out of Ukraine.

“But that was before Bucha,” Daalder said. “The atrocities have made it much more difficult to contemplate lifting any sanctions.”






If a cease-fire takes hold, the United States will also be expected to play a leading role in helping Ukraine rebuild its armed forces, its economy and its shattered cities.

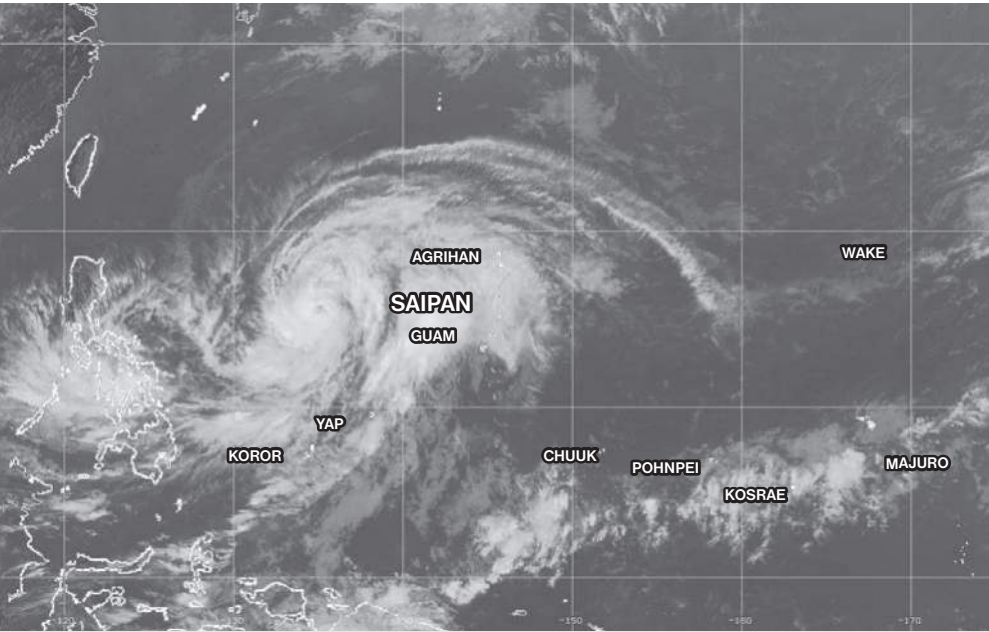
U.S. and allied support after the war will be just as important as it is now. Putin has invaded Ukraine three times since 2014; if his current offensive falls short, he can be expected to plan a fourth. One goal for U.S. policy should be to deter him from trying again.

The most damaging outcome for Putin would be a Ukraine that can regain its independence, defend its borders and show Russians that democracy can prosper in their part of the world. For anyone seeking to settle scores, that would be the best revenge.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly sunny, with Scattered showers and thunderstorms.		Partly sunny, with Scattered showers and thunderstorms.		Partly sunny.		Mostly cloudy		Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	
84°	78°	84°	78°	85°	78°	85°	77°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 10:33 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows an outflow boundary moving through the Marianas Waters. This boundary is creating a line of locally heavy showers and gusty winds up to 30 knots. The buoys reveal a 5foot east swell and a 6 to 7 foot west swell, leading to total combined seas 8 to 9 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms/Wind	29 / 26 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms/Wind	29 / 26 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:04 AM	18:31 PM
Thursday	06:03 AM	18:31 PM
Friday	06:03 AM	18:31 PM
Saturday	06:02 AM	18:31 PM
Sunday	06:01 AM	18:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	03:33 PM	15:24 PM
Thursday	-	04:13 PM	16:17 PM
Friday	-	04:52 PM	17:10 PM
Saturday	-	05:31 PM	18:05 PM
Sunday	-	06:12 PM	19:02 PM

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
<b>GUAM-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-GUAM</b>			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
<b>SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)</b>				UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	<b>INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
<b>LEGEND:</b> Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
				7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
			Daily				Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
<b>ROTA TO SAIPAN</b>				<b>ROTA TO GUAM</b>			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
<b>GUAM TO ROTA</b>				<b>SAIPAN TO TINIAN</b>			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable				
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily				
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily				
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily				
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily				
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable				
<b>TINIAN TO SAIPAN</b>							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily				
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily				
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily				
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily				
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily				
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily				
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily				
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily				
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain/Wind	20 / 14 °F	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	20 / 6 °F	
Hong Kong	Scattered Thunderstorms	26 / 22 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	28 / 22 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	19 / 8 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	21 / 10 °F	
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	32 / 26 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	21 / 10 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	27 / 24°F	
New York	Partly Cloudy	19 / 14 °F	
Osaka	AM Clouds/PM Sun	26 / 16 °F	
Paris	Cloudy/Wind	18 / 10 °F	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	17 / 11 °F	
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	23 / 19 °F	
Salem	Cloudy	27 / 17 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	12 / 10 °F	
Seoul	AM Light Rain	15 / 10 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	26 / 12 °F	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	28 / 19 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
06:02 AM	High Tide	1.78	
11:52 AM	Low Tide	0.96	
5:03 PM	High Tide	1.63	
11:44 PM	Low Tide	0.25	



# Business

## Sticker shock: March inflation likely set new 40-year high

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—With ever-rising costs for food, gasoline, housing and other necessities squeezing consumers and threatening the economy, inflation in the United States likely set yet another four-decade high in March.

The government's consumer price index being released Tuesday is expected to show

that prices shot up 8.4% from 12 months earlier, according to economists surveyed by the data firm FactSet. That would mark the fastest year-over-year inflation since December 1981. And it would surpass the 7.9% 12-month increase in February, which itself set a 40-year high.

Economists have also

forecast that from February to March, consumer prices jumped 1.1%. That would be the sharpest month-to-month jump since 2005.

The March numbers will be the first to capture the full surge in gasoline prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Moscow's brutal attacks have

triggered far-reaching Western sanctions against the Russian economy and have disrupted global food and energy markets. According to AAA, the average price of a gallon of gasoline—\$4.11—is up 44% from a year ago, though it has fallen back in the past couple of weeks.

The escalation of energy prices has led to higher transportation costs for the shipment of goods and components across the economy, which, in turn, has contributed to higher prices for consumers.

"The war in Ukraine has complicated the inflation outlook," noted Luke Tilley, chief economist at Wilming-

ton Trust.

Economists point out that since the economy emerged from the depths of the pandemic, consumers have been gradually broadening their spending beyond goods to include more services. A result is that high inflation, which at first had reflected mainly a shortage of goods—from cars and furniture to electronics and sports equipment—has been gradually emerging in services, too, like travel, health care and entertainment.

If the March price figures come in as expected, they will solidify expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise rates aggressively in the com-

ing months to try to slow borrowing and spending and tame high inflation. The financial markets, in fact, now foresee much steeper rate hikes this year than Fed officials had signaled as recently as last month.

The central bank's rate increases will make loans sharply more expensive for consumers and businesses. Mortgage rates, in particular, though not directly influenced by the Fed, have rocketed higher in recent weeks, making home buying more expensive. Many economists say they worry that the Fed has waited too long to begin raising rates and might end up acting so aggressively as to trigger a recession.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Japan's Honda outlines strategy to forge ahead on EVs

**TOKYO** (AP)—Honda is investing 5 trillion yen (\$40 billion) over the next decade in research, especially to realize a major shift to ecological electric vehicles, the Japanese automaker said Tuesday. The products and services in the works will account for more than half of its 8 trillion yen (\$64 billion) research and development budget in that time and will be tailored for each major market, the U.S., China and Japan. Efforts in North America will focus on the collaboration with General Motors Co., under which Honda Motor Co. is jointly developing two midsize to large EV

models, set for sale in 2024. By 2027, also under its alliance with GM, Honda plans to offer an affordable electric vehicle that's competitive with gas-powered models in performance and pricing.

#### California utility to pay \$55 million for massive wildfires

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Pacific Gas & Electric, the nation's largest utility, has agreed to pay more than \$55 million to avoid criminal prosecution for two major wildfires sparked by its aging Northern California power lines and submit to five years of oversight in an attempt to prevent more deadly blazes. The company didn't acknowledge any

wrongdoing in the settlement announced Monday with prosecutors in six counties ravaged by last year's Dixie Fire and the 2019 Kincadee Fire. The utility still faces criminal charges for a 2020 wildfire in Shasta County that killed four people. The civil settlements are designed to accelerate payments to hundreds of people whose homes were destroyed so they can start rebuilding more quickly than those who suffered devastating losses in 2017 and 2018 blazes ignited by PG&E's equipment. Those fires prompted the utility to negotiate settlements that included \$13.5 billion earmarked for victims—money that still hasn't been completely distributed.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY**  
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center



### Public Service Announcement – Availability of Criminal Justice Grants

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Programs include the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). A brief description and amounts available for each award under individual programs are listed below. Please visit our office on Capitol Hill, Building 1315 for a more detailed explanation on eligibility requirements, program purpose areas, and the new application form. **All applicants must have a DUNS number and nonprofit agencies must have a 501 (c) (3) Federal Tax Exemption.**

#### Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2021: \$194,475.00

The available funds can be implemented in the following purpose areas: Law Enforcement programs, Prosecution and Court programs, Prevention and Education programs, Corrections and Community Corrections programs, Drug Treatment and Enforcement programs; Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement programs; and Crime Victim and Witness programs (other than compensation).

#### Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Formula Program: FY2021: \$339,975.00

- To comply with VOCA guidelines, funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for agencies that provide direct service to victims of crime. Funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to all victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults.
- All applicants must show in their application how they will provide direct services to one or more of the crime victims mentioned above.
- New applicants must also show on their application that they have a history of providing direct services to crime victims and have other sources of funding to support the program to ensure continuity of services to victims.

#### Amounts Available:

Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse: \$299,975.00

Underserved Crime Victims: \$40,000.00

#### STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program (VAWA) FY2021: \$556,704.00

STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan," STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Allotted agencies mentioned below **must** submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs. In accordance with the CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts based on the requirements percentages set by VAWA:

- **Non Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services:** Victim Services = \$129,155.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$37,856.00. Total for Victim Services = \$167,011.00.
- **Law Enforcement** \$115,516.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$23,660.00. Total for Law Enforcement: \$139,176.00
- **Prosecution** \$115,516.00; Programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$23,660.00. Total for Prosecution \$139,176.00.
- **Courts** \$18,371.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$9,464.00. Total for Courts \$27,835.00.
- **Discretionary;** may be spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas. \$83,506.00

#### Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) FY2021: \$65,562.00

The Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault. This grant is for Non Profit agencies that provide sexual assault services only.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dates for the award process will be announced at a later date.

**All completed applications and required documents must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 P.M. Friday, April 22, 2022.**  
**No application will be accepted after the deadline.**

#### For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:

Completed applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by emailing [ztainano.cjpa@gmail.com](mailto:ztainano.cjpa@gmail.com), including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4554/4556/4558 or stop by the office on Capitol Hill (Building #1315). Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

/s/ Hon. Alexandro C. Castro  
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Zerlyn A. Taimanao  
Executive Director, CJPA



Nation

Philadelphia to restore indoor mask mandate as cases rise

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia became the first major U.S. city to reinstate its indoor mask mandate on Monday after reporting a sharp increase in coronavirus infections, with the city’s top health official saying she wanted to forestall a potential new wave driven by an omicron subvariant.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases have risen more than 50% in 10 days, the threshold at which the city’s guidelines

call for people to wear masks indoors, said Dr. Cheryl Bettigole, the health commissioner. Health officials believe the recent spike is being driven by the highly transmissible BA.2 subvariant of omicron, which has spread rapidly throughout Europe and Asia, and has become dominant in the U.S. in recent weeks.

“If we fail to act now, knowing that every previous wave of infections has been followed by a wave of hospitalizations, and then a wave of deaths, it will be too late

for many of our residents,” said Bettigole, noting about 750 Philadelphia residents died in the wintertime omicron outbreak. “This is our chance to get ahead of the pandemic, to put our masks on until we have more information about the severity of this new variant.”

Health inspectors will begin enforcing the mask mandate at city businesses on April 18.

Most states and cities dropped their masking requirements in February and early March following new

guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that put less focus on case counts and more on hospital capacity. The CDC said at that time that with the virus in retreat, most Americans could safely take off their masks.

Philadelphia ended its indoor mask mandate March 2, and Bettigole acknowledged “it was wonderful to feel that sense of normalcy again.”

Confirmed cases have since risen to more than 140 per day—still a fraction of what

Philadelphia saw at the height of the omicron surge—while only 46 patients are in the hospital with COVID-19. The CDC says community spread in Philadelphia remains low, a level at which the agency says that masking can be optional.

The restaurant industry pushed back against the city’s reimposed mask mandate, saying workers will bear the brunt of customer anger over the new rules.

“This announcement is a major blow to thousands of small businesses and other

operators in the city who were hoping this spring would be the start of recovery,” said Ben Fileccia, senior director of operations at the Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association.

PolicyLab at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia said Friday that while it expects some increased transmission in the northern U.S. over the next several weeks, hospital admissions have remained low and “our team advises against required masking given that hospital capacity is good.”

ACROSS THE NATION

**Plea deal rejected by 3 ex-officers in George Floyd’s death**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Prosecutors revealed Monday evening that they offered plea deals to three former Minneapolis police officers charged with aiding and abetting the murder of George Floyd, but said at a hearing that the defendants rejected them. Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill held the hearing mostly to consider whether he has the authority to allow live video

coverage of the upcoming trial set to begin in June for former Officers Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J. Alexander Kueng. They’re charged with aiding and abetting both manslaughter and murder when former officer Derek Chauvin used his knee to pin Floyd, a Black man, to the pavement for 9 1/2 minutes on May 25, 2020. Kueng knelt on Floyd’s back, Lane held his legs and Thao kept bystanders back. Lead prosecutor Matthew Frank did not disclose details of the plea offers in open court but said they were identical and

were made March 22 after a jury convicted the three in a separate trial in February on federal civil rights charges stemming from Floyd’s death, according to pool reports from inside the courtroom.

**3 indicted for roles in awarding COVID outreach contract**

HOUSTON (AP)—Three people who have worked for the top elected official in Harris County were indicted on Monday after being accused by prosecutors of steering a nearly \$11 million contract


for COVID-19 vaccine outreach to a political consultant with ties to local Democratic officials. Alex Triantaphyllis, Aaron Dunn and Wallis Nader were each indicted on one count of misuse of official information and one count of tampering with a record, according to court records. Triantaphyllis is chief of staff for Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, while Wallis Nader is a policy director and Aaron Dunn is a former senior adviser who recently left Hidalgo’s office. The county is the nation’s third-most populous and

home to Houston.


**2 people killed and 5 wounded in shooting near Los Angeles**

WILLOWBROOK, Calif. (AP)—Two people were killed in a weekend shooting near Los Angeles and five people were wounded and hospitalized, authorities said. The gunfire erupted at about 4 p.m. Sunday on a residential block in the community of Willowbrook, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of downtown Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County

Sheriff’s Department said. A 17-year-old boy and a man died at the scene, officials said. Sheriff’s Lt. Vincent Ursini said the teenager was shot in the upper body at least once. The victims’ identities were not immediately released. No arrests have been made and a description of the shooter, or shooters, was not available. Four male victims who were shot and wounded were taken to the hospital, one in critical condition and the three others with minor injuries, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said.



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



**REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL**  
**CUC-RAESP-22-019**

**A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection the for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade (W21-081)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection of the Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Papago Drive, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope** marked “CUC-RAESP-22-019, A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant’s preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.


All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org); Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email [dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org](mailto:dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.


GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

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**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



**INVITATION TO BID**  
**CUC-IFB-22-025**

**SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-22-025, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 PM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 28, 2022. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.**

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Officer

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# Asia



This photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, shows a landslide area at Baybay City, Leyte province, central Philippines Monday, April 11, 2022. AP

## Flooding and landslides kill at least 25 people in Philippines

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Heavy rains caused by a summer tropical depression killed at least 25 people in the central and southern Philippines, mostly due to landslides, officials said Monday.

Twenty-two villagers died in landslides in four villages in Baybay city in central Leyte province on Sunday and Monday, city police chief Lt. Col. Joemen Collado said. At least six other people were reported missing in the landslides and a search was underway, he said.

Three other storm-related deaths were reported by the government's main disaster-response agency in the south-

ern provinces of Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental.

"In one village, a landslide occurred and other victims, unfortunately, were also swept away by the surge of water," Collado told the DZBB radio network. "There were at least six missing but there could be more."

Nearly 200 floods were reported in different areas in central and southern provinces over the weekend, displacing about 30,000 families, some of which were moved to emergency shelters, officials said.

Coast guard, police and firefighters rescued some villagers in flooded communities, including some who

were trapped on their roofs. In central Cebu city, schools and work were suspended Monday and Mayor Michael Rama declared a state of calamity to allow the rapid release of emergency funds.

At least 20 storms and typhoons batter the Philippines each year, mostly during the rainy season that begins around June. Some storms have hit even during the scorching summer months in recent years.

The disaster-prone Southeast Asian nation also lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where many of the world's volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.

## US orders consular staff to leave Shanghai

**BEIJING** (AP)—The U.S. has ordered all non-emergency consular staff to leave Shanghai, which is under a tight lockdown to contain a COVID-19 surge.

Many residents in the city of 26 million have been confined to their homes for up to three weeks as China maintains its "zero-COVID" strategy of handling outbreaks with strict isolation and mass testing.

But people living under the restrictions have described an increasingly desperate situation, with families unable to leave their homes or obtain food and daily necessities, while people who test positive for the coronavirus have been forced into mass quarantine centers where conditions at times have been called crowded and unsanitary.

The State Department said the order announced late Monday is an upgrade from the "authorized" departure advisory last week that made the

decision voluntary. The order covers non-emergency U.S. government employees at the consulate in Shanghai and their family members.

"Our change in posture reflects our assessment that it is best for our employees and their families to be reduced in number and our operations to be scaled down as we deal with the changing circumstances on the ground," the announcement said.

The State Department also issued a series of advisories for Americans in Shanghai, including that they ensure they have a "sufficient supply of money, medication, food, and other necessities for your family in the event of sudden restrictions or quarantine."

China's government and the entirely state-controlled media are growing increasingly defensive about complaints over the COVID-19 prevention measures.

Beijing responded angrily to last week's voluntary departure

advisory, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian saying China was "strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to the U.S. side's groundless accusation against China's epidemic response."

In that announcement, the State Department advised Americans to reconsider traveling to China due to "arbitrary enforcement" of local laws and COVID-19 restrictions, particularly in Hong Kong, Jilin province and Shanghai. U.S. officials cited a risk of "parents and children being separated."

Despite that, and indications the hardline policy is being dictated by head of the ruling Communist Party Xi Jinping, China has rejected any notion that its response is political in nature. Xi has demanded social stability above all else in the runup to a key party congress later this year at which he is expected to bestow on himself an unprecedented third-term as party leader.

# World

## Mayor: More than 10,000 civilians dead in Mariupol



Dozens of black bags containing more bodies of victims are seen strewn across the graveyard in the cemetery in Bucha, in the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, April 11, 2022. AP

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Corpses are now "carpeted through the streets" of Mariupol after Russian troops killed more than 10,000 civilians over the past six weeks in their unsuccessful fight to capture the strategic southern port, the mayor said, while Western powers warned Tuesday of an ongoing build-up for a suspected Russian assault in Ukraine's east.

The British Ministry of Defense said Russian forces are continuing to pull out of Belarus to support operations in eastern Ukraine, focused on the Donbas region, where Russian-allied separatists have claimed independence.

"Fighting in eastern Ukraine will intensify over the next two to three weeks as Russia continues to refocus its efforts there," the ministry said in a tweet. "Russian attacks remain focused on Ukrainian positions near Donetsk and Luhansk with further fighting around Kherson and Mykolaiv and a renewed push toward Kramatorsk."

The southeastern port city of Mariupol has seen some of the heaviest attacks and civilian suffering in the 6-week-old war, but the land, sea and air assaults by Russian forces fighting to capture it have increasingly limited information on circumstances inside the city.

Speaking by phone Monday with The Associated Press, Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko accused Russian forces of having blocked weeks of attempted humanitarian convoys into the city in part to conceal the carnage. Boychenko said the death toll

in Mariupol alone could surpass 20,000.

Boychenko also gave new details of allegations by Ukrainian officials that Russian forces have brought mobile cremation equipment to Mariupol to dispose of the corpses of victims of the siege.

Russian forces have taken many bodies to a huge shopping center where there are storage facilities and refrigerators, Boychenko said.

"Mobile crematoriums have arrived in the form of trucks: You open it, and there is a pipe inside and these bodies are burned," he said.

Boychenko spoke from a location in Ukrainian-controlled territory but outside Mariupol. The mayor said he had several sources for his description of the alleged methodical burning of bodies by Russian forces in the city, but did not further detail the sources of his information.

The discovery of large numbers of apparently executed civilians after Russian forces retreated from cities and towns around the capital, Kyiv, already has prompted widespread condemnation and assertions that Russia is committing war crimes in Ukraine.

U.S. officials also point to further signs Russia's military is gearing up for a major offensive in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, switching its focus after Russian forces failed in their initial drive to capture Kyiv.

Donbas has been torn by fighting between Russian-allied separatists and Ukrainian forces since 2014, and Russia has recognized the separatists' claims

of independence. Military strategists say Russian leaders appear to hope local support, logistics and terrain in Donbas favor Russia's larger and better-armed military, potentially allowing Russian troops to gain more territory and weaken Ukraine's fighting forces.

Russia has appointed a seasoned general to lead its renewed push in the eastern Donbas region.

A senior U.S. defense official on Monday described a long Russian convoy now rolling toward the eastern city of Lysychansk with artillery, aviation and infantry support, as part of redeployment for what appears to be the looming Russian campaign.

More artillery is being deployed near the city of Donetsk, while ground combat units that withdrew from around the Kyiv and Chernihiv areas appear destined for refitting and resupplying before they position in Donbas, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal U.S. military assessments.

With their offensive in many parts of the country thwarted, Russian forces have relied increasingly on bombarding cities—a strategy that has flattened many urban areas and killed thousands of people.

The U.N. children's agency said nearly two-thirds of all Ukrainian children have fled their homes in the six weeks since Russia's invasion began. The United Nations has verified 142 children have been killed and 229 injured, though the actual numbers are likely much higher.



# Good Housekeeping

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Texture and tactile materials can help infuse an often ignored sensory element: touch. How often have you enjoyed how something felt, perhaps a furry pillow, textured throw or area rug? Regardless, the decor element of incorporating texture into your space can help elevate your home and please the senses.

Looking for ways to infuse texture into your home? Here are some decor inspiration ideas.

## 10 tips for adding texture, textiles to your decor

**1** Use toss pillows as an opportunity to bring in texture. Materials such as velvet and even some cottons are good places to start.



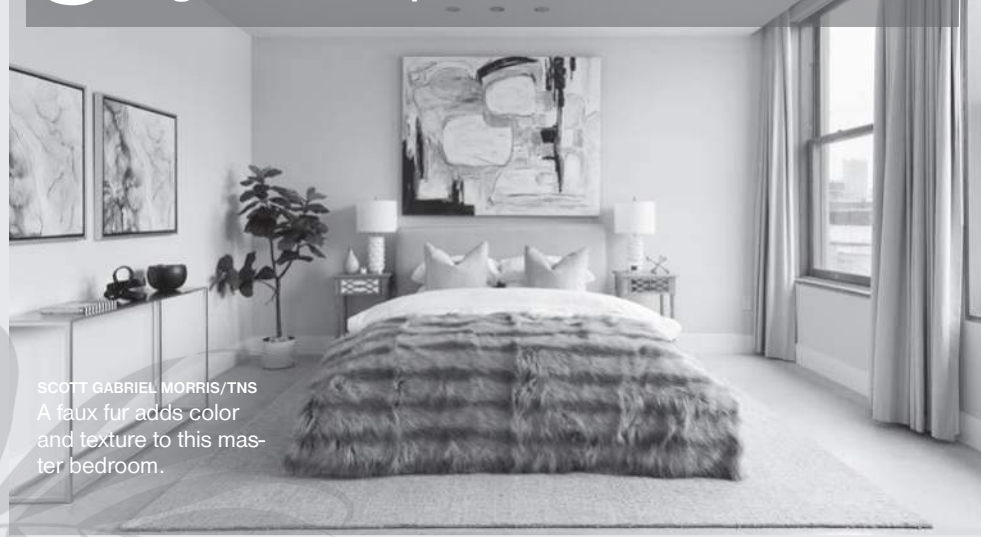
SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS  
Velvet pillows add glamour and texture to this living space.

**2** Throws, throws, throws. Throws are portable, come in various colors and materials and can be a wonderful way to infuse texture.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS  
An oversized throw and textured pillows help to elevate this master bedroom.

**3** Consider faux fur. Faux fur remains a popular way to bring texture into a space.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS  
A faux fur adds color and texture to this master bedroom.

**4** Wall art can be the ideal way to incorporate texture in an innovative way.



**7** Consider upholstery as opportunities to infuse texture.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS  
A velvet bench adds an element of texture and luxury to this master bedroom.

**5** Textured, shag and raised area rugs can help bring in an instant textured element.

**6** Textiles that can include bedding and drapery can provide a finishing touch to a space.

**8** Small furniture elements such as ottomans and footstools can be used as opportunities to infuse texture.

**9** Consider wood and organic elements in areas where you wish to incorporate texture.

**10** Greenery. From flowers to plants, greenery helps add a textured element to nearly any space.



# Life & Style

## Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean win big at CMT Music Awards

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Carrie Underwood and Jason Aldean were the big winners, the Judds reunited, and Kelsea Ballerini turned a tough break into a one-woman house party at Monday night's CMT music awards.

Underwood and Aldean won video of the year and collaborative video of the year for their duet "If I Didn't Love You" on the show that uses fan votes to honor the best in country music videos.

"This one's all about the fans man," Underwood said as she accepted the belt-buckle CMT trophy for video of the year, a record 25th win for her.

"I'm pretty sure I picked the perfect partner for this song," Aldean said.

The Judds made their first major awards show performance in over two decades, with 76-year-old Naomi and her 57-year-old daughter Wynonna singing their signature 1990 classic "Love Can Build a Bridge."

They were joined by a gospel choir in the performance that was pre-recorded outside the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The show from the Municipal Auditorium in Nashville,



Jason Aldean, left, and Carrie Underwood accept the award for video of the year for "If I Didn't Love You" at the CMT Music Awards on Monday, April 11, 2022, at the Municipal Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn.

Tennessee made the best of the last-minute absence of co-host Kelsea Ballerini, who tested positive for COVID-19 a few days earlier.

Her co-host, "Avengers" actor Anthony Mackie, took the stage alone at the start of the live CBS telecast and introduced a "backup KB," Kane Brown, to help with hosting duties. Brown was also the

night's most nominated artist but came up empty.

But Ballerini wouldn't be left out. She appeared on a big screen from home, decked out in a full awards-show dress in her living room.

"This is my normal Monday night, in full glam, with lighting I set up myself, and a remote truck outside," Ballerini said. "I would so much rather

be there with you, but I will be popping in all night long."

Later in the show, Ballerini performed from her backyard, singing her new single "Heartfirst" alone with a white guitar while standing on the grass with images of her band projected on a curtain hung behind her.

She made constant costume changes, appearing in a new dress for each appearance and ending the night in her pajamas.

Miranda Lambert won her eighth CMT award, for female video of the year, for "If I Was a Cowboy," which she also performed.

"I am so happy to be a part of the women of country music today," Lambert said.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### Fearless Girl statue will stay put opposite NYSE for now

NEW YORK (AP)—The 4-foot bronze Fearless Girl statue that was deposited in front of New York City's Charging Bull in 2017 will remain in its current spot opposite the New York Stock Exchange at least until early next year while city officials wrestle with a permanent disposition for the popular symbol of female empowerment, a city board decided Monday. Members of the Public Design Commission granted an 11-month permit extension and said they would spend the next six months exploring a way for New York City to take ownership of the statue, which is currently the subject of litigation between artist Kristen Visbal and State Street Global Advisors, the Boston-based asset-management firm that commissioned it. "We today,

Cody Johnson won male video of the year for "Til You Can't."

Maddie & Tae won best group or duo video for "Woman You Got." Tae Kerr, who recently went through a difficult pregnancy and premature birth, appeared on a screen from home during their acceptance, holding her new baby.

"I've missed you, I've missed you so much, and I've been drinking because I'm so nervous," Maddie Font said to her musical partner during an acceptance speech where she went from laughs to tears and back again. "Tell that baby girl I love her."

At age 69, George Strait won his first ever CMT award, taking CMT performance of

the year for "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone?" from "CMT Giants: Charley Pride."

Performances came fast and furious during the three hour show.

Keith Urban opened the telecast with his single "Wild Hearts," followed immediately by the duet "Never Say Never" from Cole Swindell and Lainey Wilson, who stepped out to the front of an outdoor stage to let the Nashville rain hit them as they sang.

Underwood sang her song "Ghost Story" in a pre-taped performance from her Las Vegas residency, taking flight mid-song Cirque du Soleil-style on a cloth swing hung from the ceiling.

## Jury to hear opening statements in Johnny Depp libel case

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP)—A jury in Virginia is scheduled to hear opening statements Tuesday in a defamation lawsuit filed by Johnny Depp against his ex-wife, Amber Heard.

Depp says Heard libeled him when she wrote an op-ed piece in The Washington Post in 2018 referring to herself as a "public figure representing domestic abuse."

Depp is never mentioned by name, but he says the article

implicates him nonetheless because it refers to past accusations Heard made when she sought a restraining order against him. Depp denies the abuse allegations.

A civil jury of seven members, plus four alternates, was selected Monday to hear the case in Fairfax County Circuit Court. Heard's lawyers had sought to have the case tried in California, where the actors reside. But a judge ruled that

Depp was within his rights to bring the case in Virginia because The Washington Post's computer servers for its online edition are located in the county.

The trial is expected to last for more than a month. A lengthy witness list includes actors Paul Bettany and James Franco, and tech entrepreneur Elon Musk. Some witnesses are slated to appear in person, while others are scheduled to appear via video link.

## Husband makes a connection as 17-year marriage teeters

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married for 17 years with three great kids. My wife and I have struggled on and off during those 17 years. I often feel like maybe I don't love her. We are complete opposites. I'm adventurous, daring and extroverted. She denies me sex a lot. This last time was for four months.

During that time, I met someone who has the same adventurous spirit as I do. We have hung out and we text often. She's currently getting a divorce. I'm falling for her and I have expressed it to her. She likes me, but she doesn't want a relationship right now because she isn't sure what she really wants. She's also afraid we both won't really leave our spouses if we start something.

I stopped texting her, but she said she will wait for me. How do I manage this because I'm hurting in my marriage and hurting by not texting her?

**TORN IN OHIO**

**DEAR TORN:** Inform your wife that the current status of your marriage is no longer acceptable. Denying marital relations appears to be her way of punishing you, which is unfair, so offer her the option of marriage counseling. If she refuses, I hope you will go alone to help you decide

rationally which, if any, next steps you want to take.

**If you decide to leave your marriage, there is no guarantee the woman you have been seeing will follow through with her divorce, but let her know what your plans are. I should add that for many people, the first relationship after a divorce does not lead to marriage, if you're contemplating jumping from the frying pan into the fire.**

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I was a birth mom 45 years ago. My mother forced me to give up my child at birth. Not one person supported my wish to keep my child. My heart and mind screamed, "No, don't do it!" Now, the birth father says he's sorry because he's having serious health problems and thinks he could be dying. I have forgiven everyone involved, over and over. But I've lived with depression, PTSD, etc., all these years and I cry about it still. The older I get, the more loss I feel.

I found my adult child 15 years ago. It started out OK and went downhill from there. My heart aches so much to have a connection with this child of mine. I'm shutting down inside while still waiting. I'm too tired to keep going on. My dreams are gone. My hopes are shattered. I'm ready to

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



curl up and die. What can I do?

**DESTROYED IN WASHINGTON**

**DEAR DESTROYED:** I am sorry for your overwhelming pain. What you need to do—and quickly, before you shut down further—is summon the strength to seek help from a licensed mental health professional.

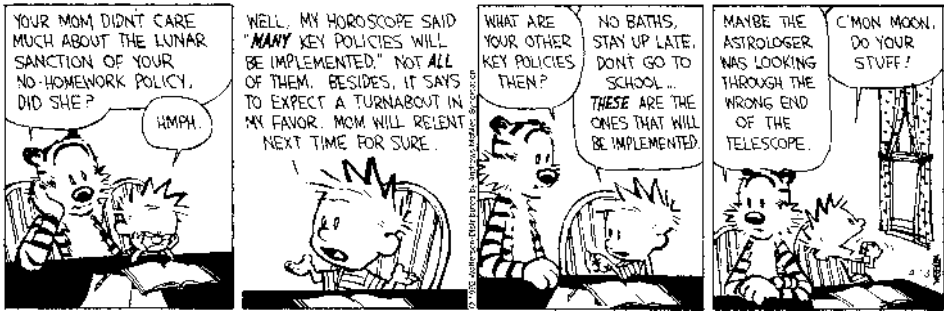
Forty-five years ago, attitudes about out-of-wedlock births were far different than they are today. Neither you nor the father of that child were equipped to properly care for the baby. Because you have forgiven everyone else over and over, it is time to find a way to forgive yourself and put a stop to your endless grieving.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



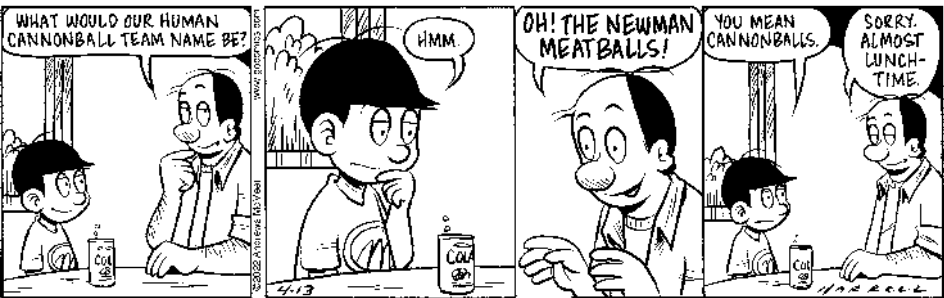
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



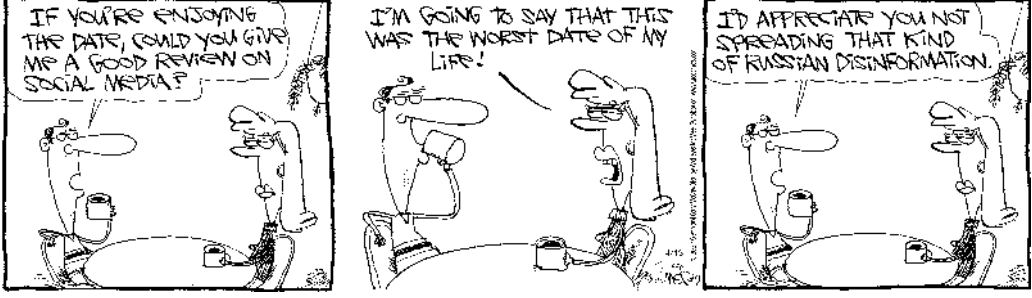
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

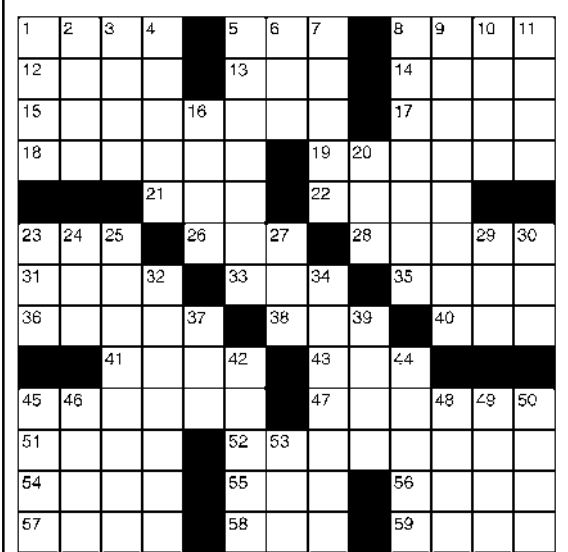
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**Solution time: 23 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 4-13**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Allison Williams, 34; Lorenzo Cain, 36; Rick Schroder, 52; Al Green, 76.

**Happy Birthday:** Think about what you enjoy doing most, and find a way to incorporate that into your personal or professional life. Pay attention to detail, you'll sidestep pitfalls this year that can slow you down and throw you off target. Doing the work yourself will make a difference in the way things unfold. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. Your numbers are 4, 17, 24, 26, 33, 42, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Welcome inevitable changes, and find a way to make them work. Be bold but use common sense to ensure that you don't make decisions for wrong reason. Channel your energy and your emotions into something positive and uplifting. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Mingle, participate and share your thoughts. Be part of the solution, and you'll bring about positive change. Remain calm, regardless of how others behave, and your input will encourage others to take the high road as well. Personal improvement is favored. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Do what you say. Refuse to get thrown in with a group of troublemakers who say one thing and do another. Gather facts before you get involved in anything that can cost you financially or ruin your reputation. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Call on people you trust, and you'll get great advice. Anger won't help or encourage others to side with you. Be specific, talk openly

and work alongside those trying to reach similar goals. Personal improvement and romance are encouraged. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take care of responsibilities first. How you handle work, money and getting along with others will help you achieve positive results. Contribute goodwill and sound ideas, and dismiss negativity and anger. Success will come your way. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Conversations will disclose facts and help you decipher what you can do to improve the situations in your life that cause you grief. Wipe your slate clean, and focus on doing what's right and best for you and those you love. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Hide out until you are ready to participate. Having your feet planted firmly on the ground will help you dismiss anyone using manipulative tactics. Know what you want, and don't budge until you feel good about what transpires. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** The sweetest revenge is your success. Don't waste time being angry. Paying attention to who you are, what you want and how to improve will help you get ahead. Personal growth is favored, and romance is encouraged. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Listen carefully and respond responsibly. Refuse to let emotions spin out of control, leaving you in a no-win situation. Protect your health, wealth and emotional well-being. Dig in and do something constructive. Accomplish something. \*\*

**EUGENIA LAST**  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** An unexpected investment will pay off. Celebrate with someone who brings out the best in you. A positive change at home will encourage you to promote self-improvement and healthy life decisions. It's OK to do things differently. Love is favored. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Stay on course. Don't make unnecessary changes or alter how you do things because someone else prompts you to do things differently. Do what feels comfortable and is reliable. Take ownership of your life and happiness. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Spend time pampering yourself and updating your look or how you handle situations. Use your intelligence and intuition to bring about positive change that adds to your confidence. Let your intentions be known, and put your plans in motion. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are thoughtful, sensitive and practical. You are dynamic and innovative.

☾ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

**SUDOKU**

**Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green**

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

4	3	2	7	6	9	1	5	8
5	7	9	1	3	8	6	4	2
6	1	8	2	5	4	7	9	3
7	6	4	8	2	5	9	3	1
9	2	5	3	1	7	4	8	6
1	8	3	9	4	6	5	2	7
2	4	1	6	9	3	8	7	5
8	9	6	5	7	2	3	1	4
3	5	7	4	8	1	2	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/13

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**WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET**

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**BLACK ONYX** Solution: 7 letters

C M S A R D O N Y X R A E F C  
L A E P E N D U L U M D S C U  
M A B D W I R P M L I G H T L  
I N C O I M B J O U R N E Y T  
N O R I C T Y R G S M S E S U  
E B I V S H A M A N I E R U R  
R L D O S Y O T N C N T R N E  
A E U I T S H N I O E E I E F  
L L L U A Y E P T O D L N V L  
S O A B K M P S E S N A E Z E  
P E T L R B O D L E I H S T C  
B R I N G O H N C L A W A R T  
E S M E G L S A D E T A G A I  
A A C I L I S B L A C K L U O  
D T A R A C T N A D N E P Q N

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Absorb, Agate, Bands, Bead, Beauty, Black, Bracelet, Brown, Cabochon, Carat, Claw, Culture, Diamond, Fear, Gems, Guide, Hope, Journey, Light, Meditation, Mind, Minec, Minerals, Moganite, Nail, Noble, Pendant, Pendulum, Physical, Polish, Positive, Quartz, Reds, Reflection, Ring, Sardonyx, Shaman, Sheer, Shield, Silica, Silky, Soul, Stone, Symbolic, Venus, Vibe

**Yesterday's Answer: Caldicot**

Treasures 27, 28, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.



# Springer answers boos with HR, 3 hits, leads Jays over Yanks



## NEW YORK

(AP)—Greeted by boos at Yankee Stadium, George Springer responded with the type of racket he and his Toronto Blue Jays are ready to make.

Springer hit a go-ahead, two-run homer and an RBI double, and the Blue Jays made three dazzling defensive plays to beat New York 3-0 Monday night.

Toronto is off to a 3-1 start after missing the playoffs last year despite a 91-71 record.

"I think that the world is probably a little bit behind what we thought, but we've always been confident in what we can do," shortstop Bo Bichette said. "We've known that we had an ability to make some noise for a few years internally. Obviously, we didn't. But I think this is the first year that people are kind of on board."

Bichette made two sparkling plays, Teoscar Hernández had a great grab in right field and Alek Manoah (1-0) allowed one hit over six innings.

"Those little things, that's how you win games," Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo said. "They're just kids, so they're just going to get better little by little."

Springer remains targeted by fans for his time on the 2017 championship Houston Astros, found guilty by Major League Baseball of stealing signs with an unauthorized camera.

Fans booed Springer before and during each at-bat, and he finished a triple short of the cycle in the leadoff spot. No. 9 batter Santiago Espinal had three singles for the Blue Jays.

"I'm concentrating on the stuff that I can control, which is the swings and all that stuff," Springer said.

Manoah permitted only Joey Gallo's opposite-field single with one out in the second. The 24-year-old right-hander struck out seven and worked around four walks, helping the Blue Jays extend their Yankee Stadium winning streak to five.

He pitched six shutout innings of two-hit ball to win his major league debut in the Bronx last May 27.

"It's the mecca," Manoah said. "You kind of want to come in, you want to play hard. There's a lot of fans here and it's just an exciting ballpark to play in and something you dream of as a kid."

Springer followed Espinal's third-inning single by pulling a slider from Jameson Taillon (0-1) into the left-field seats for his second homer in two days. Espinal hit a two-

out single in the seventh and scored when Springer sliced a fastball to the opposite field for a double on two hops to the right-field wall.

Manoah loosened up before the game with a football, then mixed 44 fastballs, 22 sliders, 18 sinkers and 15 changeups, getting five swings and misses on fastballs, four on sliders and three on changeups.

He walked the bases loaded in the third before Giancarlo Stanton hit a broken-bat grounder to Bichette, who made a backhand pickup and off-balance throw to first from the edge of the outfield grass.

Hernández slid to grab Kyle Higashioka's looper into short right field with two on in the seventh after Gleyber Torres' leadoff single off Trevor Richards and Aaron Hicks' walk.

Espinal, shifted to the left side of second, ranged back to the right side of second to glove pinch-hitter Josh Donaldson's 106 mph grounder against Adam Cimber. Espinal flipped to Bichette, who made an acrobatic, 360-degree turn at second and threw to first for an inning-ending double play.

Jordan Romano finished the four-hitter for his third save and 26th in a row dating to last season, and the Yankees lost their second straight after opening with two wins. Of the seven times New York was shut out last year, two were against Toronto.

Taillon became the first Yankees pitcher to last five innings, allowing five hits with six strikeouts and no walks.

"They made a couple big plays when they did get in trouble, but for the most part Manoah was in control," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

## Phillies 5, Mets 4

In P.J.T. Realmuto hit a two-run homer for Philadelphia in the eighth inning, and Rhys Hoskins and Didi Gregorius followed with run-scoring doubles.

The Phillies trailed 4-0 before they scored five runs in the eighth against two Mets relievers. Realmuto's first homer of the season deep into the left-field seats made it 4-3. Hoskins ripped a tying double to left off Seth Lugo (0-1), and Gregorius lined one into the right-center gap for a 5-4 lead.

Seranthony Dominguez (1-0) tossed 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win. Brad Hand worked the ninth for a save.

Phillies third baseman Alec Bohm made three errors in the first three innings,



Toronto Blue Jays' George Springer, right, celebrates with third base coach Luis Rivera as he runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Monday, April 11, 2022, in New York.

a bad look as he tries to win the third base job over rookie Bryson Stott.

## Tigers 3, Red Sox 1

In Detroit, Javier Báez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning, sending the Tigers to the win.

Báez drove in Austin Meadows with a 396-foot shot to left off Ryan Brasier. Báez and Meadows are two new additions for a team hoping to contend.

Michael Fulmer (1-0) pitched the eighth, and Gregory Soto got three outs for Detroit's first save of the season.

J.D. Martinez homered for Boston. Austin Davis (0-1) took the loss after giving up one run and two hits in one inning.

## Guardians 10, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Cleveland rookie Steven Kwan hit a bases-loaded triple while becoming the first player to reach base at least three times in each of his first four games.

Kwan, who went 5 for 5 and safely reached six times a day earlier, finished the series 9 for 13. He got on base in 15 of 19 plate appearances and scored four times.

His three RBIs in the eighth inning Monday were the first of his career.

Oscar Mercado added a two-run homer for the Guardians. Logan Allen (1-0) earned the win with two scoreless innings.

Andrew Benintendi had three hits and three RBIs for Kansas City. Jake Brentz (0-1) got the loss.

## Twins 4, Mariners 0

In Minneapolis, Byron Buxton and Luis Arraez each had three hits, and Dylan Bundy earned his first win in a Twins uniform.

After Jorge Polanco doubled in Buxton for the game's first run in the first inning, the Twins scored on three straight singles in the fifth. Arraez, Polanco and Gio Urshela all picked up RBI singles as Minnesota built a 4-0 lead.

That was enough run support for Bundy (1-0), who allowed one hit in five innings.

Chris Flexen (0-1) took the loss in his season debut. The righty allowed three runs in 4 1/3 innings.

## Padres 4, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Manny Machado's RBI groundout in the seventh inning put San Diego ahead, Austin Nola hit his first home run of the season and the Padres beat San Francisco.

Twin brothers relieving for opposing clubs, Taylor and Tyler Rogers, both pitched and factored in — Taylor earning his third save and Tyler (0-1) taking the loss.

Jake Cronenworth's RBI single in the ninth provided insurance for the Padres.

San Diego right-hander Nick Martinez made his first major league start since 2017 for Texas after spending three of the past four years playing in Japan. He allowed one run on five hits, struck out six and walked one over five innings. Steven Wilson (2-0) earned the win.

Giants starter Alex Wood struck out six over 4 1/3 innings, allowing two runs on five hits in his first 2022 start.

## Angels 6, Marlins 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Michael Lorenzen allowed one run on two hits over six innings in his Angels debut and Brandon Marsh hit an early three-run homer in Los Angeles' win over Miami.

Jo Adell also went deep for the Angels, who bounced

back after losing three of four to defending AL champion Houston in the season-opening series.

Jesús Sánchez accounted for both Marlins runs with a pair of solo homers. Miami manager Don Mattingly was ejected in the fourth for arguing with plate umpire Nick Mahrley.

Lorenzen (1-0) struck out seven. Hernandez (0-1) went four innings and allowed four runs on five hits with six strikeouts.

## Athletics 13, Rays 2

In Tampa, Fla., Paul Blackburn pitched five scoreless innings, and the Athletics handed the Rays their first loss of the season.

Blackburn (1-0) struck out seven and walked one, helping the rebuilding A's under new manager Mark Kotsay win their second straight after beginning the season with two losses.

Seth Brown and Elvis Andrus each hit a three-run homer for Oakland. Sheldon Neuse hit his first career grand slam with two out in the ninth against Tampa Bay outfielder Brett Phillips.

Wander Franco had his third three-hit game of the season for the Rays. Luis Patiño (0-1) departed in the first inning with a strained left oblique.

## Rockies 6, Rangers 4, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Jose Iglesias' fourth hit was a tie-breaking RBI single in the 10th inning, and Colorado won a game-ending replay challenge, spoiling Texas' home opener.

After Texas pinch-hitter Willie Calhoun hit a tying drive in the ninth, Iglesias put Colorado ahead in the 10th and Connor Joe added a homer off Greg Holland

(0-1), the eighth Rangers pitcher.

Mitch Garver walked with one out in the Rangers 10th, then was forced out sliding into the bag as second baseman Brendan Rodgers' relay throw was wide of first — allowing Marcus Semien to score from second and Adolis Garcia to move up a base.

But Rockies manager Bud Black challenged the play, and after a lengthy review, it was determined that Garver's slide interfered with the fielder. Garcia also was ruled out, ending the game.

Daniel Bard (1-0) got the win, and Ashton Goudeau earned his first save.

## Nationals 11, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Maikel Franco drove in five runs on four hits, including a two-run homer as Washington beat Huascar Ynoa and Atlanta.

Franco's homer capped a five-run third inning. He added a three-run double off Tucker Davidson when the Nationals scored five runs in the eighth to turn the game into a rout.

Josh Rogers (1-0) allowed one run on two hits in 5 1/3 innings in a fill-in start for Washington after scheduled starter Aníbal Sánchez was placed on the 10-day injured list with a stiff neck.

Lane Thomas drove in three runs with two hits. Josh Bell drove in two runs with two hits.

Ynoa (0-1) allowed five runs on seven hits and two walks in three innings. Spencer Strider gave up one run in 3 1/3 innings. Marcell Ozuna had an RBI single for Atlanta, which lost its second straight.

## Orioles 2, Brewers 0

In Baltimore, Cedric Mullins hit a two-run single, Bruce Zimmermann pitched four sharp innings and Baltimore won its opening game at a slightly altered Camden Yards.

On the 30th anniversary of its inaugural season, Baltimore's ballpark looked noticeably different after the wall in left field was pushed back and made taller in the offseason. The new dimensions weren't a factor in this game, though.

Baltimore won for the first time this season after being swept in a three-game series at Tampa Bay.

Zimmermann, the first Maryland-born pitcher to start a home opener for the Orioles since 1990, allowed three hits. Mike Baumann (1-0) got the win and Jorge López worked a hitless ninth for the save.

Milwaukee's Adrian Houser (0-1) allowed two runs and four hits in 3 2/3 innings.



# Lakers fire title-winning coach Frank Vogel after 3 seasons



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Frank Vogel masterminded the 17th championship in the Los Angeles Lakers' remarkable history in his first season on their bench.

Exactly 18 months after that triumph, he also became part of the Lakers' past.

The Lakers fired Vogel on Monday, choosing their title-winning coach to take the first fall for one of the most disappointing seasons in NBA history.

Los Angeles finished 33-49 and missed the 10-team Western Conference playoffs this season. It was a humiliating underachievement for LeBron James, Anthony Davis, Russell Westbrook, Carmelo Anthony and a veteran-laden supporting cast widely expected to contend for another championship.

Vogel was under contract through next season, but almost nothing has gone right over the past two seasons for the rosters assembled by general manager Rob Pelinka and coached by Vogel, who went 127-98 in his three seasons running the club.

Pelinka declined to elaborate Monday on why he and owner Jeanie Buss felt Vogel needed to be fired.

"Today is not going to be a day of finger-pointing and unwinding all the specific reasons," Pelinka said. "We just felt organizationally, at the highest level, it was time for a new voice. ... That's not to say anything against the incredible accomplishments that Frank Vogel has had. He was a great coach here, and he's going to go on to be a great coach somewhere else."

ESPN reported Vogel's imminent firing immediately after the Lakers finished the season by beating Denver in overtime Sunday night. During an awkward postgame news conference, Vogel admitted



Los Angeles Lakers coach Frank Vogel walks along the sideline during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco, Thursday, April 7, 2022.

he had not yet been told of the club's decision before it was leaked to ESPN.

Pelinka dismissed the public relations embarrassment of the leak for the Lakers, calling the report "speculative and unsourced."

But it was a tacky end to a tenure that began tremendously for Vogel, the former coach at Orlando and Indiana. The Lakers claimed a title in the Florida bubble in October 2020, but haven't won another playoff round since.

Pelinka doesn't plan to replace Vogel immediately, and he said he hasn't even assembled a list of potential candidates. The GM said it "would be great" to have a coach in place before the draft in June, but the Lakers' search will be "thorough and methodical."

Los Angeles never resembled a championship team this season despite trading for Westbrook and signing Anthony to play alongside James and Da-

vis. The Lakers stumbled along near .500 until Jan. 7, when they entered a 10-30 nosedive exacerbated by the latest lengthy injury absence for Davis, who has missed more games than he has played in the past two seasons.

"This was a disappointing Lakers season at every level," Pelinka said. "In the face of disappointment, our fans expect more, and that's in every facet. It starts in the front office led by me, and our ability to construct the right roster. It starts with the coaches holding players accountable and making sure there's on-court execution."

Despite another impressive season from the 37-year-old James, the Lakers never jelled this season with a roster built around nine players over 30 and 11 players who weren't with the team last season. Davis managed to play in only 40 of their 82 games, while Westbrook struggled to fit into the Lakers' team concept during one of the worst seasons of his

professional career.

After so much preseason ballyhoo around the teaming of James, Davis and Westbrook, the trio managed to play in only 21 games together — and went 11-10. The Lakers used 41 different starting lineups.

"At the end of the day, the reason why we weren't very good together is we weren't on the damn floor together," said James after the Lakers finished with the worst winning percentage of his 19 NBA seasons (.402). "You never got a chance to see what the ballclub could be."

Although Vogel remained publicly confident in his ability to fix the problems created by the injuries and two years of high-risk roster assembly, the coach never came up with any consistent solutions to Los Angeles' woes.

But while Vogel received ample criticism for his curious decisions on player rotations and his lack of an offensive game

plan, the Lakers' single biggest problem in Vogel's final two seasons was Davis' inability to stay healthy.

The eight-time All-Star big man was dominant in the bubble, but Davis has played in just 76 of the Lakers' 154 games over the past two seasons while battling several major injury problems.

James also struggled with injuries during the last two years, appearing in only 101 games. He played in just one of the Lakers' final eight games this season because of a sprained ankle, and Los Angeles was eliminated from playoff contention during that stretch despite Davis' return from a six-week absence for three late games.

James spoke to the media Monday morning before Vogel's fate was revealed by the Lakers' front office.

"I respect Frank as a coach, as a man," James said. "Our partnership that we've had over the few years here has been nothing

but candid, and great conversations. This is a guy that gives everything to the game and prepared us every single night. ... I don't know what's going to happen with Frank being here, but I've got nothing but respect for him."

Vogel was hired in May 2019 to assemble a cohesive team around James and Davis, who was officially acquired from New Orleans two months later. Vogel's plans worked right away: His first team weathered the NBA's coronavirus shutdown and then won a ring, with Vogel leading a deep, defensively dominant group to the title.

Pelinka has thoroughly altered that championship roster since then, and the results have been catastrophic. Less than a full calendar year after the triumph in the bubble, only James, Davis and Talen Horton-Tucker remained on the roster to start this season — along with Dwight Howard, who left the team and returned.

Los Angeles went 42-30 last season while battling major injuries to Davis and James before losing to Phoenix in the first round of the playoffs. Pelinka then disassembled the Lakers' championship-winning supporting cast when he allowed Alex Caruso to leave for Chicago and traded Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Kyle Kuzma in a package for Westbrook.

Pelinka hoped to build a Big Three of elite talent to be supplemented by low-cost veterans, rather than homegrown or long-tenured Lakers. Instead, Pelinka's moves forced Vogel to rebuild his defense from scratch with inferior defensive players.

The Lakers didn't come close to matching the last two teams' defensive success, finishing 21st in defensive rating after being a top-three team in Vogel's first two seasons, and their offensive output couldn't make up for it with Davis frequently unavailable.

## The play-in games are set, as NBA looks to the postseason

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

It lasted 174 days, required the usage of more players than any season in history primarily because of the ongoing challenge of playing through a pandemic, and saw playoff-positioning chases go all the way down to the final moments.

Now, move over, regular season.

The NBA's postseason is finally here.

Kyrie Irving can play at home again, a change-of-heart regarding vaccination rules that was made a few weeks ago by the city of New York in a move that will have immediate impact on the race to the

NBA championship. Irving and the Brooklyn Nets held off the Indiana Pacers 134-126 on Sunday, and will play host to the first play-in game of this year's tournament when they face the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

That matchup wasn't set until Sunday, nor was the other Eastern Conference play-in matchup: No. 9 Atlanta will play host to No. 10 Charlotte on Wednesday night. The winner of that game will play the Nets-Cavaliers loser on Friday to determine who'll face No. 1 Miami in an East first-round series.

The Nets-Cavaliers winner will be seeded No. 7 and meet second-seeded Boston

in the first round. The Celtics secured the No. 2 seed on Sunday night with a win in Memphis, combined with Milwaukee's loss to Cleveland.

Charlotte will be without forward Gordon Hayward, announcing Sunday that he's "out indefinitely with continued discomfort in his left foot." Hayward's foot will be placed in a cast for at least two weeks, meaning if the Hornets win twice in the play-in tournament and get into the postseason, he'll likely miss most of Round 1, at minimum, as well.

### OTHER MATCHUPS

Defending NBA champion Milwaukee will be seeded No.

3 in the East and will play No. 6 Chicago in a first-round series. Fourth-seeded Philadelphia will face fifth-seeded Toronto in another East matchup.

In the West, Golden State secured the No. 3 seed and will face No. 6 Denver in Round 1. Dallas — which lost Luka Doncic to a calf strain Sunday — will play No. 5 Utah in another first-round series out West.

### SCORING TITLE

Joel Embiid of Philadelphia is the league's scoring champion, averaging 30.6 points. He was held out of the 76ers' finale Sunday, not that he needed it for any statistical reasons.

Embiid—who hails from

Cameroon—becomes the first international player to win that title. Embiid is also the first center to win the scoring crown since Shaquille O'Neal in 1999-2000.

### ONE LAST ROUT

The Los Angeles Clippers beat Oklahoma City 138-88 on Sunday. It was the fourth NBA game to be decided by at least 50 points this season — a new league record.

### RACE TO 82

Only five players were in position to play on Sunday and officially appear in all 82 regular-season games with their team this season: Phoenix's Mikal Bridges, Detroit's Sad-

diq Bey, Washington's Deni Avdija, Dallas' Dwight Powell and the Warriors' Kevon Looney.

They all appeared in games Sunday, completing the 82-game quest.

Having only five players get to 82 marked the fewest number of players in NBA history to have appeared in every game for a full regular season.

There were 11 players who appeared in all 72 games last season, which was shortened because of the pandemic. There were 14 every-game players in 2019-20, when teams played differing numbers of games, again because of the pandemic and then with not every team advancing to the restart bubble in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.



# Team Marianas pummels 670 Gravity in open division

**MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team Marianas brought 670 Gravity down to earth with a 141-66 walloping in the open division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

In setting the season-high in scoring, the CNMI national men's basketball training pool outscored their hapless opponents, 39-13, right from the get-go before taking a 77-27 spread at the half. The carnage carried on in the third quarter, as Team Marianas continued to shoot the lights out and again more than doubled 670 Gravity, 104-51, with a quarter to go in the lop-sided game.

Team Marianas had eight players crack double digits led by the 22 points of Chioni Dela Cruz. League top scorer Joseph Torres still got his as he fired a game-high 26 points for 670 Gravity. It was the seventh win in eight games for Team Marianas, while 670 Gravity dipped below .500 at 6-7 in the win-loss standings.

In the second game, center Juan Camacho scored 20 points in leading Paradise Reality to a 93-62 rout of Royal Pacific. Paradise Reality improved to 6-4, while Paradise Reality absorbed its sixth loss against only two wins.

Blue Haus walloped RNV Construction, 91-63, in the nightcap. Alex Lauron, Eh-



MARK RABAGO

Team Marianas' Ervin Villarin, right, is seen here in a file photo during their game against JTM Saipan in the open division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League at the Civic Center Basketball Court in

roll Peredo, and Brandon Talania pumped in upwards of 21 points each for the now 9-2 team. Their opponents lost for the 10th time in 11 games.



On Thursday, The Game (9-1) kept its lead in the open division following a 95-71 (1-9) drubbing of Super Tech in the opener. In the middle game, Vizion Insurance (6-4) nipped Marianas Dental Center (3-8), 82-80. The nightcap had Lakay/Islander (7-5) beating HBR International (5-5), 91-69.

## THURSDAY First Game

**The Game 95** – Dayao 32, McWilliams 22, Sablan 15, Mintac 13, Shamburger 8, Albert 6.

**Super Tech 71** – Ege 21, D. Tibayan 12, Daluyen 10, R. Tibayan 6, Castillo 2, Villegas 2, Iguel 2, Agulto 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-14, 53-30, 71-25, 95-71.

## Second Game

**Vizion Insurance 82** – Rueda 32, Pastrana 26, Poseo 10, Agustin 6, Santos 5, Jumaquin 1.

**MDC 80** – Tengco 23, Montes 12, Paras 9, Ferrer 8, Lilles 7, Kim 5, Apasan 4, Moises 4, Elchico 3, Manipon 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-20, 42-37, 61-64, 82-80.

## Third Game

**Lakay 91** – Basa 19, Escano 11, Jandoc 11, Rabauliman 9, Capalad 8, Palacios 7, Quan 6, Aguon 5, Natividad 4.

**HBR International 69** – Romo 16, Sapo 12, Reyes 7, Gotengco 5, Batur 3, Borin-got 3, Galang 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-11, 50-29, 66-50, 91-69.

## FRIDAY First Game

**Team Marianas 141** – Dela Cruz 22, Santos 20, Naraja 18, Brennan 18, Castro 15, Augenbaugh 13, Sablan 12, Deleon Guerrero 12, Aldan 7, Villarin 3.

**670 Gravity 66** – Torres 26, Bernardo 16, Solis 9, Gaviola 8, Galulu 5, Macaraig 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 39-13, 77-27, 104-51, 141-66.

## Second Game

**Paradise Reality 98** –

Camacho 20, Atan 15, Sablan 12, Lizama 9, Camacho 8, Diaz 6, Castro 5, Del Rosario 4, Kynes 2.

**Royal Pacific 62** – Baci 18, Paig 13, Fundador 12, Jones 9, Lazatin 4, Pascua 2, Pilapil 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-15, 36-32, 66-44, 93-62.

## Third Game

**Blue Haus 91** – Lauron 31, Peredo 21, Talania 21, Santos 6, Esdreton 5, Hernandez 3.

**RNV Construction 63** – Vargas 20, Villareal 17, Zapanta 11, Agustin 10.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-17, 43-30, 64-40, 91-63.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	3	1	.750	–
Toronto	3	1	.750	–
New York	2	2	.500	1
Baltimore	1	3	.250	2
Boston	1	3	.250	2

##### Central Division

Chicago	2	1	.667	–
Cleveland	2	2	.500	½
Detroit	2	2	.500	½
Kansas City	2	2	.500	½
Minnesota	2	2	.500	½

##### West Division

Houston	3	1	.750	–
Oakland	2	2	.500	1
Seattle	2	2	.500	1
Los Angeles	2	3	.400	1½
Texas	1	3	.250	2

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

Philadelphia	3	1	.750	–
New York	3	2	.600	½
Atlanta	2	3	.400	1½
Washington	2	3	.400	1½
Miami	1	3	.250	2

##### Central Division

Chicago	2	1	.667	–
St. Louis	2	1	.667	–
Cincinnati	2	2	.500	½
Pittsburgh	1	2	.333	1
Milwaukee	1	3	.250	1½

##### West Division

San Diego	4	1	.800	–
Colorado	3	1	.750	½
San Francisco	2	2	.500	1½
Los Angeles	1	2	.333	2
Arizona	1	3	.250	2½

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division z-clinched conference

### NBA LEADERS (Through April 10)

#### Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, PHI	68	666	654	2079	30.6
Antetokounmpo, MIL	67	689	553	2002	29.9
Young, ATL	76	711	500	2155	28.4
Doncic, DAL	65	641	364	1847	28.4
DeRozan, CHI	76	774	520	2118	27.9
Jokic, DEN	74	764	379	2004	27.1
Tatum, BOS	76	708	400	2046	26.9
Booker, PHO	68	662	315	1822	26.8
Mitchell, UTA	67	617	267	1733	25.9
Curry, GS	64	535	275	1630	25.5
Towns, MIN	74	642	384	1818	24.6
LaVine, CHI	67	565	320	1635	24.4
Brown, BOS	66	576	241	1559	23.6
Fox, SAC	59	516	261	1367	23.2
Siakam, TOR	68	596	284	1551	22.8
McCollum, POR	62	536	116	1370	22.1
Harden, BKN	65	407	470	1432	22.0
Garland, CLE	68	542	215	1473	21.7
Edwards, MIN	72	549	220	1533	21.3
Murray, SA	68	573	196	1438	21.1

#### FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gobert, UTA	362	508	.713
Allen, CLE	369	545	.677
Harrell, CHA	358	555	.645
Ayton, PHO	442	697	.634
Zubac, LAC	310	495	.626
Poeltl, SA	410	663	.618

#### Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Capela, ATL	370	604	613		
Jokic, DEN	764	1311	583		
Sabonis, SAC	443	773	573		
Adebayo, MIA	406	729	557		
Gobert, UTA	66	241	727	968	14.7
Jokic, DEN	74	208	813	1019	13.8
Sabonis, SAC	62	201	551	752	12.1
Capela, ATL	74	279	598	877	11.9
Embiid, PHI	68	146	650	796	11.7
Antetokounmpo, MIL	67	134	644	778	11.6
Valanciunas, NO	74	226	617	843	11.4
Vucevic, CHI	73	142	662	804	11.0
Carter, ORL	62	139	509	648	10.5
Ayton, PHO	58	149	444	593	10.2

#### Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, PHO	65	702	10.8
Harden, BKN	65	667	10.3
Young, ATL	76	737	9.7
Murray, SA	68	627	9.2
Doncic, DAL	65	568	8.7
Garland, CLE	68	583	8.6
Haliburton, SAC	77	628	8.2
Jokic, DEN	74	584	7.9
Ball, CHA	75	571	7.6
Lowry, MIA	63	474	7.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MGOC

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of the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.”

The statement continued by thanking the Joeten Dai Dai Foundation, which last February signed up as a Platinum Sponsor of the quadrennial event. The price tag for such sponsorship is \$100,000.

“The equipment was directly contributed through part of the Dai Dai Foundation’s sponsorship pact to the Pacific Mini Games. We are forever indebted to the Joeten Dai Dai Foundation and

all other the sponsors that are stepping up to the challenge to making this Games a reality. Again, we thank you for believing in us that we can all make the athletes’ experience more special and enriching,” NMA added.

NMA president Ramon “Ray” Tebuteb personally extended his gratitude to the MGOC for making the donation of training equipment possible.

“Northern Marianas Athletics is so grateful and appreciative for the equipment and training implements the Mini Games Organizing Committee contributed to

our athletes and coaches.”

Peter, for his part, said the MGOC is proud to see local businesses continuously re-invest in the CNMI’s people and community.

“Joeten, through their generous sponsorship of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, acquired new gym equipment for the Northern Marianas Athletics. Not only will the equipment be used for the Games, but the community will continue to benefit from the equipment long after the Games have ended.”

“I want to thank Joeten for their unwavering support

of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and generous contribution. The advent of the Games is reigniting the spirit of community, influencing the re-investment in the NMI and its people. We have been very fortunate to have private community partners and leaders invest not only their time and resources, but also commit staff to ensure our Mini Games are a success,” he added.

The weight training equipment are housed at the Northern Mariana Sports Association warehouses in Chalan Kiya.

## SHIMIZU

From Page 20

It did return this year, but sans the 42-kilometer Saipan Marathon.

Shimizu, who didn’t really train for the fun run, said the toughest part of the 5K was the straight line drive from the fire station in front of the American Memorial Park to the finish line near the entrance to the Micro Beach Pavilion.

Jim, meanwhile, was the first woman to complete the course from just in front of the Club Elan entrance at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to just before the 13 Fisherman Monument and back after timing in at 21:06. Ayano Braxton finished second with a run of 22:29, while Allysa Angeles completed the Top 3 in the women’s division with her 25:08.

The CNMI record-holder

in the 10K run said last Saturday’s 5K was pretty good and added that she’s happy that the Saipan Marathon was back.

Asked why she didn’t take on her favorite 10K course or the lengthier half marathon, Jim said she had to beg off from running the longer courses because of lack of training.

“I didn’t train and not ready for 10K and half marathon... [but] had different challenge against younger people.”

All in all, she’s happy with her nearly 21-minute flat finish in the 5K. “About 20 minutes was my target so it was almost the same.”

The age group winners of the half marathon, 10K, and 5K will be reported in tomorrow’s issue of *Saipan Tribune*. The Saipan Marathon 2022 is a signature event of MVA and was organized with help from Northern Marianas Athletics.

## KANOA

From Page 20

### TanHoldings-1 6, Matansa 2

TanHoldings-1 earned win No. 4 after outclassing Matansa.

Kay Anne Costales and Shaina Malonza delivered two goals apiece for TanHoldings-1, which got one goal from Xyriel Pascual and was awarded an own

goal. Matansa was also credited an own goal, while its other goal came from Alyssa Borlongan.

### Kanoa-1 2, Kanoa-2 1

In the battle between sister teams, Kanoa-1 edged Kanoa-2.

Lina Tsukagoshi and Eliskristiana Iglecias scored for Kanoa-1, while Kanoa-2’s lone goal was courtesy of Ajeandra Manabat.





Springer answers  
boos with HR, 3  
hits, leads Jays  
over Yanks  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Team Marianas  
pummels 670  
Gravity in open  
division  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## MGOC donates \$15K in equipment to NMA

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Some good news for a change to CNMI track and field athletes ramping up their training for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

With the Oleai track and field facility off-limits until May as it undergoes resurfacing, Northern Marianas Athletics got a timely assist from the Mini Games Organizing Committee after it donated roughly \$15,000 worth of training equipment that included weights, bars, a treadmill, a stationary bike, dumbbells, racks, among others, to the national athletics federation.

In a statement, the NMA thanked the MGOC for the donation of the much needed equipment, especially with the

opening of the Mini Games a little over two months away.

“On behalf of Northern Marianas Athletics board, coaches and athletes, we would like to send our deepest thanks and gratitude to the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee, its chair Mr. Marco Peter, CEO Mr. Ben Babauta, and the rest of the hard-working Mini

Games committee members for approving our request for weight training equipment and temporary training facility as we await the refurbishing

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI track and field athletes try out the new equipment donated by the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee to the Northern Marianas Athletics at one of the NMSA warehouses in Chalan Kiya.



MICHAELA PANGANIBAN

Southern United FC's Pia Ngewakl dribbles away from an MP United FC defender during their game in the girls U16 division of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2022 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

## Kanoa, Southern FC hammer foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and Southern United FC had a walk in the park last Saturday after crushing their respective opponents in the girls U16 division of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2022

In the first match in the division at the NMI Soccer Training Center, Kanoa whipped Paire FC, 9-0, to remain unbeaten in five games and keep the lead in the group.

Kaithlyn Chavez and Au-

drey Castro each scored three goals to lift Kanoa past Paire, while Sophia Quintos added two, and Mia Abuan made one.

In the other lopsided game, Pia Ngewakl nailed five goals to power Southern to a 10-0 rout of MP United FC. With the easy victory, Southern

United stays within striking distance of Kanoa, as the former improved to a 4-0-1 win-draw-loss record. Summer Manahane chipped in three in the win, while Tamia Hix scored the two other

goals for Southern United.

### GIRLS U13 Southern United 8, MPU 0

Southern United is also ahead in the girls U13 division after topping MP United.

Selena Atalig and Briannie Echalico tallied four goals apiece to hand Southern the win and a division best 5-0-1 record.

Paire holds the same mark and got its fifth victory in six games after TanHoldings-2 forfeited last weekend's game.

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## Shimizu, Jim are 5K bests in Saipan Marathon 2022

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Soccer player Cody Shimizu and veteran runner Noriko Jim were the top runners among 108 who tackled the 5K fun run of the Saipan Marathon 2022 last Saturday.

Shimizu, who is also an up-and-coming tennis player and member of the Marianas High School track and field team, was the fleetest afoot in the men's division of the run after clocking in at 18:41. He was followed by Anthony Bergancia and Zachary Flippin who crossed

the finish line in 19:10 and 19:15, respectively.

The 15-year-old MHS sophomore said the return of the Saipan Marathon after a one-year absence brought back a lot of memories.

“It was a good but hard race especially since there were a lot of people,” he said.

The organizing Marianas Visitors Authority cancelled the 2021 Saipan Marathon altogether last year and international entries were significantly less in 2020 due to concerns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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